

Friday October 11 1996

Albania D 8.50
Australia L 2.20
Austria S 3.00
Belgium B 0.85
Canada C 2.25
Czechia K 1.20
Denmark D 1.00
Ecuador E 1.00
France F 1.10
Germany G 1.30
Greece D 4.00
Hong Kong H 3.25
Hungary H 2.00
India I 1.00
Japan J 1.00
Korea K 1.00
Kuwait K 1.00
Latvia L 1.00
Lithuania L 1.00
Malta M 1.00
Netherlands N 4.00
Norway N 1.00
Oman O 1.00
Pakistan P 1.00
Portugal P 2.20
Russia R 2.20
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Spain S 1.00
Sweden S 1.00
Switzerland S 1.00
Taiwan T 1.00
Thailand T 1.00
Turkey T 1.00
USA U 2.75

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Friday Review



From Bexhill to Broadway — my world tour by Eddie Izzard



Bring back the clowns — a sixties mystery is solved

With European weather

Cover story

Music page 10

Cold store fleet to house BSE beef

Lisa Buckingham

THE Government is planning to charter a fleet of refrigerated ships and cool-store containers to provide extra storage for the carcasses of cattle slaughtered in the attempt to stamp out BSE.

The move to provide emergency storage comes as farmers step up protests against what they claim is a policy of inaction over mad cow disease. Farmers staged a high profile demonstration this week outside the Conservative Party conference, and the National Farmers Union yesterday passed a motion of no confidence in Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister.

It is estimated that about 22,000 cattle are being slaughtered each week in the over 30-month scheme (OTMS), but farmers want this raised to 55,000 to eliminate the doomed cattle before the hardest winter months set in, when it is estimated that the cost of feeding a cow will rise to £1.50 a day.

A government spokeswoman said conventional cold storage capacity would probably soon be exhausted, and negotiations were taking place which could mean ships, able to cope with up to 20,000 dead animals, would be chartered.

It was not yet clear how many vessels would have to be hired, so the Government could not calculate what the likely cost would be. But the cold-store container ships would be chartered on the open market, which, according to shipping market sources, could cost over £5,500 a month each.

Ships full of yellow-dyed beef would float in British ports linked to land by mains electricity supply, until there was sufficient capacity in the rendering industry to incinerate the meat.

The Florence meeting of European Union states predicted a selective cull of about 125,000 head of cattle in an attempt to remove BSE from British herds and lift the worldwide ban on exports.



Alan Borg, director of the Victoria and Albert Museum, seen at the foot of a cast of David, by Michelangelo, yesterday when announcing that retail sales of museum products reached £30 million last year

Gold handcuffs deal stuns City

Patrick Donovan City Editor

ONE of the most lavish so-called "golden handcuffs" packages in the history of City banking will give 120 NatWest investment bankers the chance to earn an average of £2 million each, it emerged last night.

The glittering incentive offer, aimed at buying the staff's loyalty for at least three years, is at the heart of yesterday's announcement that NatWest is to take over specialist financier J.O. Hambro Magan. The deal is estimated at around £150 million.

NatWest pays its ordinary high street clerical staff between £10,000 and £15,000. It has made redundant 20,000 staff in the last five years.

The bank has been forced to lock in key executives with promises of enormous pay packets because of competition from rivals.

Such is the shortage of top bankers to handle the current surge in international take-over and acquisition activity, competition has driven salaries for the most senior directors to well over £10 million a year.

The bank has recently signed up the former foreign secretary, Douglas Hurd, as a "roving ambassador" on £250,000 for the equivalent of a two-day working week.

The chief executive of NatWest Markets, Martin Owen, yesterday declined to spell out any financial details about the take-over, admitting the terms were "very sensitive".

But he conceded that there were "golden handcuffs" for senior staff, designed to ensure that high fliers remain in place after takeover of the eight-year-old banking "boutique" which has handled everything from the sale of Flaxton to the £2.9 billion merger of Lord Hollick's MAI with the Express newspaper group, United.

Unions expressed dismay at the payment of huge sums to select employees when tens of thousands of NatWest staff faced redundancy.

Rory Murphy of the NatWest Staff Association said: "Staff could go berserk. It's a question of morality. You can't have one rule for the investment bank and one for the ordinary retail bank."

Bank prizes

- Deutsche Morgan Grenfell: Maurice Thompson and Michael Coors, £7 million each over two years
Tokai Bank: Trader Kaveh Alamouti: Salary of £2.35 million, down from nearly £15 million last year
Mercury Asset Management: Highest paid woman in the City: Fund manager Carol Galley, £210,000 salary, plus £300,000 bonus plus £400,000 deferred bonus
Salomon Brothers: Two media analysts recently signed up at £200,000 apiece
Top of the shop: George Soros, \$1.5 billion last year

between 10,000 and 15,000 staff throughout its branch network over the next three years. The majority of these staff earn between £10,000 and £15,000.

These "golden handcuff" terms, have been given to the top 40 staff at J.O. Hambro Magan. As part of the merger terms, a further 80 corporate financiers at NatWest have had their contracts rewritten to give them similar terms.

Combined with NatWest's existing Wall Street operations, the deal will make the bank the biggest British force in mergers and acquisitions, handling take-over deals worth more than £32 billion. The deal represents a huge coup for 50-year-old George Magan who founded J.O. Hambro Magan just eight years ago. He is to take over the chairmanship of the enlarged investment banking operation and is expected to get by far the largest deal.

City notebook, page 11

'Dear diary, It is fun being PM!'

David McKie

ONE of the most enjoyable parts of being Prime Minister in the Spectator today, "is holding receptions at No. 10 or Chequers." He goes on to describe some with something like schoolboy glee.

Mr Major — or someone employing his byline — is writing the magazine's weekly Diary. The result is less obviously Pooteresque than Private Eye's spoof, The Secret Diary of John Major, aged 47. Yet some of it — "Mr Prodi, the Italian prime minister, had flown into Dub-

lin in a very large plane. I suggested he had brought the deficit with him" comes close enough to raise doubts about the writer. Could this too be pastiche?

Students of Mr Major's prose style, with its habit of getting it slightly wrong, will savour the diary's account of a Downing Street thrash for famous sportsmen, including the England goalkeeper David Seaman. Noting that Seaman spent the evening surrounded by "a bevy of adoring girls", the Prime Minister quotes one as whispering: "He's a goalkeeper, isn't he? I know a good catch he could net."

Mother jailed for stopping violent father seeing child

Clare Longrigg and Alex Bellis

A MOTHER was jailed for six weeks yesterday for refusing to comply with a court order allowing her violent former partner to have contact with their daughter.



Dawn Austin, partner knocked her teeth out

Judge William Poulton at Canterbury crown court ruled that it would be far more harmful for the child to grow up without a relationship with her father than to see her mother go to prison.

Dawn Austin, aged 30, was jailed for six weeks for contempt of court over an order requiring the child to meet Lee Norton, who has a history of serious violence against her. She was last night in Holloway prison and her two children were in foster care.

Britain
Minister's two leading wards...
Crossword 15; Weather 16 TV 16; Radio 16

World News
Minister's two leading wards...
Crossword 15; Weather 16 TV 16; Radio 16

Finance
One of the bosses at the Association of British Insurers...
Crossword 15; Weather 16 TV 16; Radio 16

Sport
Alan Sugar, the Tottenham chairman...
Crossword 15; Weather 16 TV 16; Radio 16

Comment and Letters 8
Obituaries 10
Friday Review
Crossword 15; Weather 16 TV 16; Radio 16

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Conference sketch

Virtuoso Ken plays a blinder



Simon Hoggart

THE Tory Conference rose yesterday to acclaim its latest and most improbable darling: the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Kenneth Clarke.

It was an astonishing performance which had pro-European Cabinet ministers hugging themselves with delight and the sceptics skulking in the shadows, scowling in annoyance.

The triumph was all the more remarkable because he achieved it with a solemn promise not to cut taxes — at least not yet.

Review

The grey man is saved for Labour

David McKie

Labour Party Political Broadcast

JOHN MAJOR came out of retirement last night in a shameless bid to make today's closing proceedings at the Conservative Party Conference look entirely ridiculous.

John Major, latest version, that is, The Prime Minister's Spitting Image, along with those of Kenneth Clarke, Michael Howard, John Gummer and Humphrey the Downing Street cat, were rescued from the dustbin of history to which they had been consigned when the programme breathed its last, and pressed into service for what was clearly designed as the whackiest party political broadcast yet.

We had sex, says accused

Stuart Miller

THE lorry driver who denies ordering French student Celine Figard told a court yesterday that he had sex in his cab after he asked her for a Christmas kiss in return for a lift.

ous goose pimples among many of the MPs who will vote for the next leader.

It was Michael Heseltine who was said by Sir Julian Critchley to know where to find the editors of the Conservative Party. Mr Portillo used to strut for the G-spot. Yesterday it was more "not tonight dear, I have a headache".

Instead of boasting about how cruise missiles could drop down an enemy's chimney, he wailed about the kindergartens our troops have built in Bosnia. Yes, the enemy will know all about it when they get a Tonka toy dropped with unerring precision down the toilet.

Mr Portillo has, unerringly, begun to sound slightly like Tony Blair. The voice is acquiring the same high-pitched earnestness and, as with the Labour leader, a deadly virus is wiping out his verbs.

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Major plans bold assault on Blair to consolidate new-found unity after Heseltine helps scatter right

Clarke routs the doubters

Michael White Political Editor

JOHN Major will today lay claim to an unprecedented fifth Tory term by telling voters that 150 years of democratic politics have shown Britain that only the Conservatives can be relied on to deliver ever-wider "opportunities for all".

His bold assault on Tony Blair's rival vision of an "Age of Achievement" is designed to consolidate the surge of unity which took hold of his warring party at its Bournemouth conference yesterday when Kenneth Clarke and Michael Heseltine joined forces to scatter the right — and taunt Sir James Goldsmith.

Despite months of backstabbing and rightward pressure from John Redwood and his Fleet St allies, the Tory campaign is now certain to be fought on Mr Major's terms, his rivals were grudgingly conceding last night.

Labour's massive lead in the opinion polls could be whittled away by the return of the feel-good factor and a defence of the Union, ministers told their activists, though not if they "feed the voracious appetite of a media anxious to headline any phrase, any whisper that harms our party," Mr Heseltine warned them.

But it was Mr Clarke's day to carry off the crown for one of the hardest speeches of his career before an audience which until yesterday — "As you commute between the luxury of your hacienda in Mexico, your chateau in France and your palazzo in Venice, just remember the

rest of us. We would have to stay here."

Though some activists and candidates were muttering last night about key debate over Europe being suppressed, most closet-Goldsmithites in the conference hall took it on the chin.

If that was not enough to boost Mr Major's battered morale, Michael Portillo, whose first "Who Dares Wins" speech as Defence Secretary scandalised colleagues in 1995, gave a muted performance which loyally appealed for "three extra policies, unity, unity and unity" to win the coming election.

Mr Major was taking no chances as he finished this morning's test. Unlike his deputy — who accused Mr Blair of lacking "the slightest shred of integrity" over his children's schooling — the Prime Minister will not go for

the Labour leader's jugular in a systematic way.

What he will do is present his own "Honest John" credentials as a self-made man, determined to spread opportunity in the same spirit as Margaret Thatcher and a century earlier, Disraeli had done.

"It runs in the bloodstream of the party," in contrast to Labour's persistent obstruction to reform throughout the 1980s, he plans to say.

He will also unveil a new initiative on health to complete the five key points which his cabinet team have underlined in Bournemouth as the focus of the coming session of Parliament and the election campaign: law and order, an educational "agenda for aspirers", small government and lower taxes; and the welfare-to-work package presented as "dole to

dignity".

It fell to Mr Heseltine to mock Labour's Blackpool conference.

"Five days, five soundbites and they think they are fit to govern for five years. No facts, no details, no costs. Soundbites substituted for substance. Public relations masquerading as public concern. Dream music — nightmare prospects."

"What a transformation. Old Labour, the herry army. New Labour, the smarmy army," said Mr Heseltine who mocked the highly-successful Blackpool gathering as "a breath of fresh air for the chattering classes".

Mr Major will contrast his "feet on the ground" with Labour's "head in the air".

Tories in Bournemouth, page 5; Leader comment, page 6; Notebook, page 11

Joanna Trollope to head children's reading drive



Lair of the book worm: the novelist Joanna Trollope at home

PHOTOGRAPH: ALISTAIR MORRISON

Aga-saga weaver summoned to find book worms in young couch potatoes

Sarah Boseley

ONE of the country's most popular but most belittled writers, Joanna Trollope, author of the unkindly christened Aga-sagas, has been chosen by the Heritage Secretary, Virginia Bottomley, to chair a panel to promote children's reading.

Ms Trollope's elevation burst without warning on the Tory party conference in Bournemouth yesterday. The novelist will spearhead the fight against youthful couch-potatoes who sit, square-eyed and empty-headed, in front of the box every evening. The panel she will chair is to plan a national Reading Challenge scheme.

The project was in its early stages, the department conceded. There are those who may wonder if the idea was born while Mrs Bottomley was scribbling the early jottings for her children's book. In a letter to Ms Trollope, dated only yesterday,

Mrs Bottomley muses over the possibilities. An incentive may be offered to 11- to 16-year-olds to borrow good books from libraries — a badge may go down well — "for those who could demonstrate that they had read and understood the books on their return. Festing may involve a short compulsory questionnaire, certified by a responsible adult." It all sounds like good, clean fun.

She had nothing against British television as such, she told the conference. It was wonderful as long as it was free from filth. But the neglected books were "windows of wonder through which children can pass into other worlds". Books and television should be complementary.

Exactly which books is a moot point. In her letter to Ms Trollope, Mrs Bottomley mentions "a national list" which the panel may compile. Past

Reading list

Joanna Trollope's favourite authors

- Past: George Elliot, Henry Fielding, Anthony Trollope. Present: Jane Gardam, Rose Macaulay, Amy Tan, John Irving.

attempts to compile lists of great and good literature for children have provoked an outcry from authors, teachers and readers, as traditionalists have denounced the outrageous modern literature and modernists have slammed the dusty classics.

Ms Trollope, whose best-selling novels include The Rector's Wife and The Choir, is known to consider herself the heir of the sort of tradi-

tional novel that immortalised her distant ancestor Anthony. Critics suggest she has yet to produce anything of quite his weight, although she has done much to increase the reading habit in the nation's adults.

Yesterday she was working on another volume in the Gloucestershire mill of honeyed stone that she rents and had given orders to her publishers that she was not to be disturbed until June. Besides, a Bloomsbury spokesperson added: "The role is so new to her that she doesn't have anything to say yet."

Ms Trollope has previously made known her support for libraries, however. Last October she signed a letter to the Guardian, with Bob Hoskins, Joan Bakewell, Alan Ayckbourn, Gill Rebeck and Nicholas Parsons, complaining that the service was being blighted by funding cuts and demanding "a visionary policy" for libraries. Now she is on the inside, perhaps she can make something happen.

Sara Keays takes battle over Parkinson daughter to Europe

Claire Dyer Legal Correspondent

SARA Keays, the former mistress of the Tory party elder statesman, Lord Parkinson, is accusing the British Government of violating her rights to freedom of expression and respect for family life, in an application to the European Commission of Human Rights in Strasbourg.

The revelation, on the day of a fund-raising appeal by Lord Parkinson at the party conference, is certain to embarrass the Government. It could cost the Government £75,000 to defend, and could force it, if she succeeds, to change the law and pay her damages.

fair between the married Cecil Parkinson, the then Trade and Industry Secretary, and his former secretary, and the impending birth of his illegitimate child, exposed on the eve of the 1983 Tory conference.

Ms Keays alleges that British law has never before intervened to stop a responsible and dedicated parent taking an action which she reasonably believed to be of benefit

to her child and which would have been of benefit to the public.

The film could not be made without High Court consent because of injunctions banning publicity obtained by Lord Parkinson, Flora's father, and the Official Solicitor.

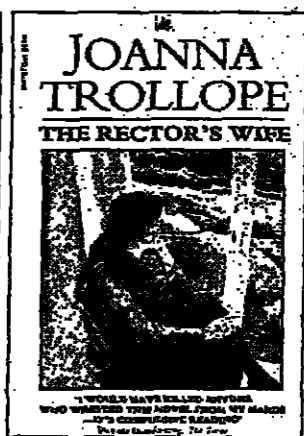
Lord Parkinson applied for the first injunction to stop media coverage of child support proceedings. Ms Keays accepted advice that she should join in the application, without realising it could stop all future public discussion about Flora's upbringing.

A High Court judge, Mr Justice Cazalet, refused to lift the injunction to allow the TV programme because he feared this would lead to a "torrent" of "turd and sensational" tabloid reports. Three Appeal Court judges ruled that the court's power to stop publicity in the circumstances was "in theory limitless".

Her application describes the judges as "elderly males of an élite class, who were unlikely to have had any personal experience of raising children with handicaps like Flora and who were apparently ill-disposed towards single mothers. They were suspicious of and antipathetic to the 'tabloid' press, which the overwhelming majority of British citizens choose to read."

An extract from The Rector's Wife. The sitting room at Loxford Rectory was a surprise to Daniel Byrne. It had been a surprise to Loxford for 10 years, previously accustomed, as rural communities are, to modesty and neatness in the pastoral dwelling-house. It contained the Knole sofa on which St Agatha had reclined in West Kensington (too large for Laura's tiny flat), several lowering pieces of reproduction Jacobean furniture donated by Kitty ("Your father loved it but I can't bear it, it's so threatening"), hundreds of books on shelves made by Peter out of bricks and planks and the unmistakable overlying detritus of family life.

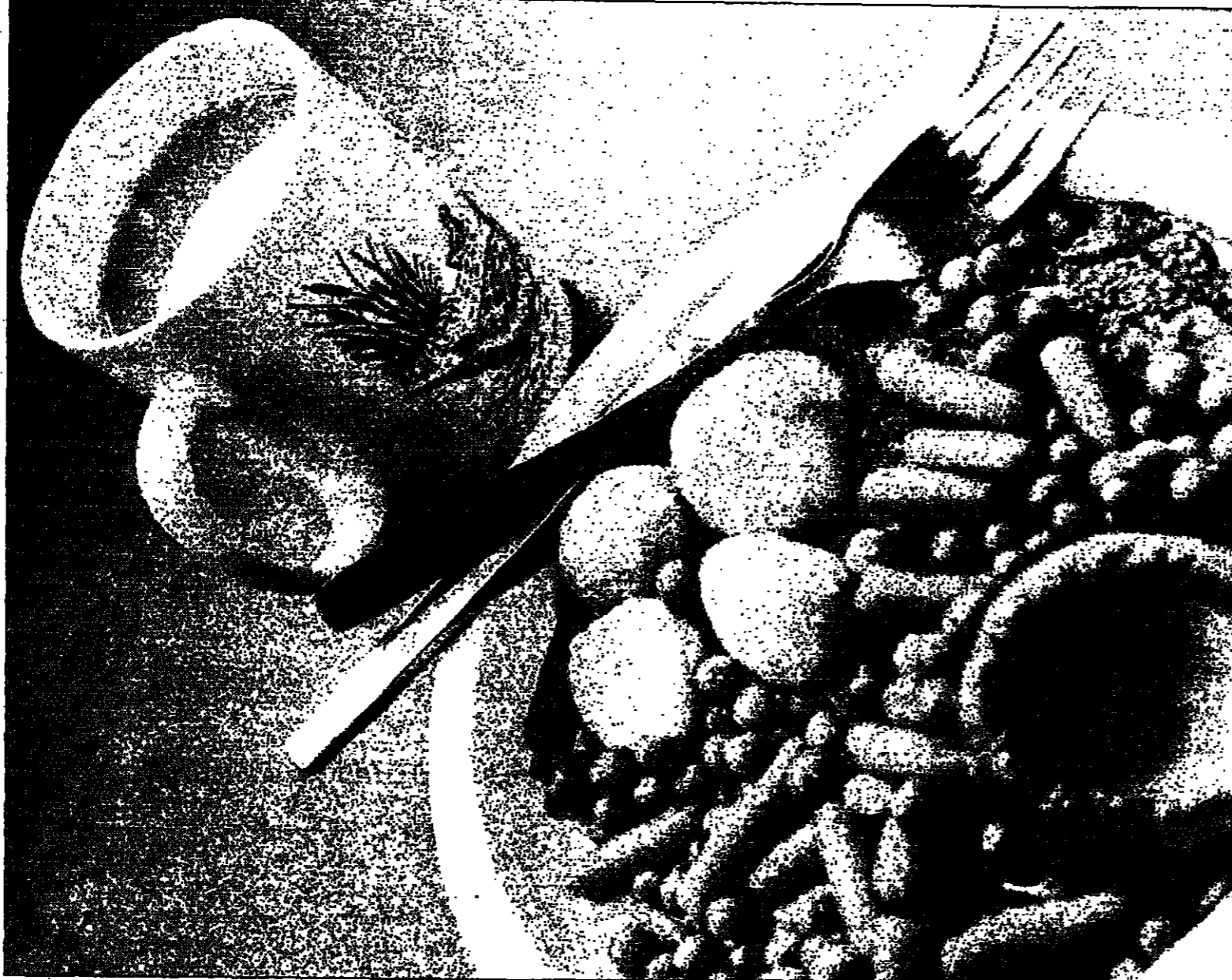
Anna, making room for Daniel on the sofa, moved a pile of sheet music several feet across the room, a jersey of Luke's and Flora's latest piece of chain stitch in which a huge needle glittered.



"How very nice," said Daniel, sitting down. He looked around him. "How comfortable. Tidiness makes me nervous." "When Peter married me, I was tidy," Anna said, recalling her cardigans with a sudden pang of those emblems of an imagined and ordered future. "I seem to have slumped, as time's gone on."

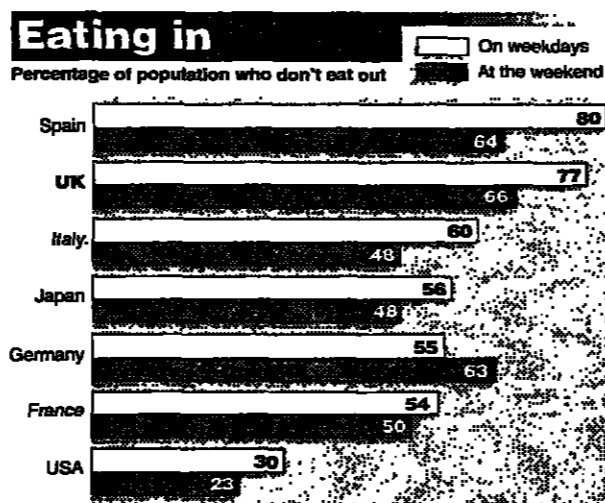
Yorkshire advertisement with 'AS SEEN ON TV' and 'FOR A CHANGE' stars. Text: 'You can't miss Yorkshire. It's been on everything from All Creatures Great and Small to Heartbeat. Find out why Yorkshire could claim to be the TV capital of Britain. RadioTimes IT'S NOT WHAT YOU EXPECT. You are allowed to respond to me and be... Eddie Izzard take...'

Large vertical advertisement on the right edge of the page, partially cut off, featuring a person's face and text including 'Even Briton', 'not like Briti', 'hod, a surv', 'nds. Apart', 'r beef, tha', '-BSE or n', 'Sesball hero', '2 birds hand', 'blakes on', 'the way to the', 'World Series', 'BBC in New York', 'The winning', 'are quite relax', 'Eddie Izzard take', 'rev'.



Food, glorious food... Roast dinner washed down with tea is standard British fare, though only a third of Britons rate it highly PHOTOGRAPH: DAVID SLUITER

# Even Britons do not like British food, a survey finds. Apart from our beef, that is — BSE or no BSE



**Alex Dwyer Smith in Paris**

IT IS depressing but true: the British drink tea with meals, scoff endless sandwiches, and refuse to let BSE scare them off overdone Sunday roast beef. To make matters worse, they don't even like their national diet very much.

Other countries in Europe cannot praise their national dishes highly enough, according to a new survey of eating habits in

sight countries, but British self-respect has been eroded by years of fry-ups, baked beans and stodgy puddings: only 32 per cent of Britons believe British food is the best.

By comparison, 95 per cent of French people, 93 per cent of Italians, 88 per cent of Spaniards, 74 per cent of Germans, 67 per cent of Americans and Japanese, and 60 per cent of Brazilians think their national cuisine is the best.

Britons are second only

to Americans at eating snacks, and sandwiches are to Britons what hamburgers are to folk across the giant pond.

Asked to list food they ate every day, 47 per cent of Britons ticked "sandwiches/hamburgers" — against 38 per cent of Americans and only 4 per cent of French people.

Mad cow or no mad cow, Britons are still fiercely loyal to British beef according to the survey, which questioned 6,500 people

during June and July. Asked whether, as a result of revelations about BSE, they had reduced their beef consumption, 59 per cent of Britons said they had not — a score matching countries unaffected by the scare.

One reason for the lack of admiration for British food could be that we commit to spend the shortest time in the kitchen — 33 minutes on weekdays.

That changes at weekends, with Britons spending almost as long in the

kitchen as the French (1 hour 5 minutes per meal against 1 hour 12).

Dominique Mine, director in France of the British food promotion body, Food From Britain, said: "Britain is very advanced in pre-prepared dinners and I think the trends in Britain may be duplicated in other European countries."

The survey, published ahead of the Sial fair — a four-day binge for the world's food industries which begins in Paris on October 20 — also looked at socio-economic influences on the digestive tract.

In Britain, high earners and single people are the least likely to have breakfast. The over-55s and the least well-off spend the longest over breakfast.

Asked whether they personally prepared a weekday evening meal, 92 per cent of women said they did, but only 62 per cent of men. Women also spent longer preparing food.

# Suspicion surrounds super-generous interest rates

## Investors warned over Internet bank

**THE** Bank of England yesterday said it may try to pull the plug on an Internet bank based in the Caribbean that offers super-generous interest rates to British customers.

Although unable to ban the grandly named European Union Bank from advertising over the international computer system, the Bank may take action if its advertisements fail to meet UK standards.

European Union Bank was, until this summer, still claiming the Tory peer, Lord Mancroft, the 39-year-old heroin addict turned medical charity patron, as its chairman, even though he announced in May he had left the organisation. It also claims to be the first offshore bank on the net.

Yesterday the Bank of England warned all British people that deposits with EUB — which is based in Antigua, one of the most loosely-regulated territories in the world — were not covered by the UK deposit-protection scheme.

EUB has advertised for people to send money over the Internet. It claims to employ ultra-secure anti-hacking technology, although the legal position of British customers



Lord Mancroft: quit offshore bank in May

British Government ought to have protected them.

Foretelling such an outcome this time, a Bank source said that "caveat emptor has to bite". The source added that the Bank retained powers over advertisements for offshore bank accounts, even though it had no power to regulate deposits taken outside the UK, and would consider moving against any Internet provider carrying unlawful promotions for EUB.

But the Bank said there was no way to protect someone determined to invest in EUB.

The Inland Revenue confirmed it was monitoring services offered by Internet-based companies such as EUB for the setting up of offshore tax-haven companies. The possibility of taxable funds disappearing into uncrackable coded computer accounts was a real danger.

EUB has no connection with the European Union in Brussels and no client in Britain has complained to the UK authorities. The Bank said yesterday's warning was a pre-emptive measure.

Among recent EUB publicity on the Internet is a statement that "clients may establish an international business corporation on-line through European Union Bank, taking full advantage of Antigua's favourable tax laws".

# Massacre trial founders

**THE** murder prosecution against South Africa's former defence minister, General Magnus Malan, and other retired security force commanders appeared to be crumbling yesterday when the judge labelled the key state witness a liar.

Judge Jan Hugo acquitted six of the 16 defendants at the Supreme Court in Durban on the first day of a judgment which he is expected to complete today. The six were alleged to be hit men trained by the South African army.

If Gen Malan and the officers accused with him are also cleared it will be a big setback for the African National Congress government and Archbishop Desmond Tutu's Truth Commission

in their attempts to uncover the role of the military in the "dirty war" of the 1980s and early 1990s.

The 16 accused — including four retired generals — faced charges of murder, attempted murder and conspiracy to murder in the KwaMakutha massacre in Natal on January 21 1987, in which 13 civilians, most of them women and children, were killed.

The massacre was alleged to have been carried out by a hit squad who underwent combat training at a secret military camp in Namibia. The state alleged that the target was a suspected ANC activist — who was not killed.

The crucial witness for the prosecution was a military officer, Captain J.P. Opperman, who claimed he was the commander of the hit squad.

Judge Hugo said that Capt Opperman was "a lying wit-

ness in certain respects and unreliable in others".

The judge also noted that the state had conceded the unreliability of a second important prosecution witness, a former military intelligence agent, Andre Cloete. He said the evidence of all three state witnesses had to be approached with caution, because they were accomplices.

There were also indications they had been coached.

The judge said the poor planning and execution of the attack supported the defence contention that it was not an authorised military operation, but a "frolic". The large quantity of weapons used contradicted Capt Opperman's claim that the target was one man. "It seems likely that Opperman must have had backing from somewhere," he said. "The question is from where and from whom."

# Baseball hero, 12, lends hand to Yankees on the way to the World Series

**IAN KATZ IN NEW YORK**

A WEEK ago Jeffrey Maier was another 12-year-old New York kid, praying for his beloved Yankees to reach the World Series. Yesterday he was being hailed as the hero of one of the biggest games of the baseball season. And the villain.

The schoolboy guaranteed himself a place in baseball history when he reached over a boundary wall at Yankee Stadium and grabbed a ball during a championship game between the home team and the Baltimore Orioles.

The ball, hit by a Yankees player, had been heading into the catcher's mitt of a Baltimore fielder. Instead the boy deflected it into the stands, converting it into a home run for the New York team.

The Yankees, who had been trailing by one run, went on to win the game in overtime, moving a step closer to a place in the World Series.

Yesterday the boy was feted as a hero by a city which craves a return to the glory days of Babe Ruth and Joe Di Maggio.

"It's the ran for mayor of New York this morning (former mayor) Ed Koch and I would both be in trouble," said Mayor Rudolph Giuliani.

Jeffrey was rather less popular in Baltimore and Wash-



The schoolboy intervention that led Yankees to victory

# Mother jailed for denying father access to their child

continued from page 1

are appalled. We don't think that in a situation where there is a violent man involved, contact should be presumed to be in the interests of the child."

Julie Bindel, of the National Conference on Violence, Abuse and Women's Citizenship, added: "When all too often men who commit serious acts of violence against women and children are not apprehended or imprisoned, to put this mother in custody when she is only trying to protect herself is an outrage."

A fortnight ago Ms Austin, from Canterbury, was given a six week suspended prison sentence for failing to comply with the contact order. She was given another chance to see her four-year-old daughter to Mr Norton but refused.

During their six year relationship Ms Austin has alleged that Mr Norton has knocked out her front teeth, and tried to throw her off a first floor balcony.

Mr Norton has also served time in prison for domestic violence, after he broke his former wife's jaw in three places. But he said before yesterday's hearing: "I am not in the slightest bit interested in getting at Dawn. I just want to see my daughter. I miss her very much and the longer this goes on, the more difficult it will be to re-establish our relationship."

"Does anyone really understand what's behind travel insurance?"

**A very down to earth question.**

The words 'American Express' are understood around the world. That's important if you're abroad and you find you need medical attention, cover for lost baggage or personal property, compensation for travel delay or funding for legal expenses. So if you need emergency assistance or even pre-travel advice, our representatives are on call 24 hours a day wherever on earth you are. We offer annual cover from just £59 and single trip policies that you need not be a Cardmember to take advantage of. You see, your travel insurance provider can make a world of difference.

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**You are allowed to swear on the radio in Iceland, so I politely respond to requests for swearing by saying f\*\*#@ and s\*\*% and b\*\*\*\$#@ whenever asked. I realise the Icelandic people are quite relaxed — like well-wrapped-up Dutch people. Eddie Izzard takes us through his first world tour**

# Friday Review cover story

News in brief

Another victim of new CJD variant

A 33-YEAR-OLD London woman is the latest victim of the new variant of Creutzfeldt-Jacob Disease...

Like the 13 other victims of the new variant, confirmed by the government's CJD surveillance unit in Edinburgh...

A family member said yesterday: "We are obviously very concerned about the possibility of the disease being passed in some way to her two children..."

'Bizarre sex act' death

A PRIMARY school headmaster died during a bizarre sex act, an inquest at Basingstoke, Hampshire, heard yesterday...

North East Hampshire coroner, Andrew Bradley, was told by Mr Calvert's wife Susan that about a year ago she suspected her husband of using women's make-up...

'Show-off' killer driver jailed

A DRIVER who killed three people while showing off in his sports car, and then fled the scene, was jailed for eight years at the High Court in Stirling yesterday...

Fraser McDowall, 36, was found guilty of the culpable homicide of pensioners Thomas and Jean McCallum and Sheena Young, 36, in a high speed, early morning crash last May...

Workmen die in sewer

HEALTH and safety inspectors were investigating last night after two council workmen died at a sewage pumping station near Swansea after collapsing when they were overcome by fumes in an underground inspection chamber...

Call to ban council sunbeds

A BAN on sunbeds at council-run leisure centres was urged yesterday by a skin expert. Jonathan Norris, consultant dermatologist at Dumfries and Galloway Royal Infirmary...

Brothers' hanging riddle

POLICE are investigating the riddle of two middle-aged brothers, believed to have been from Leeds, found hanging on Tuesday from the same branch of a tree in what is thought to have been a suicide pact at a countryside beauty spot outside York...

Intended victim wounded twice in 'bloody feud' before attacker was shot by marksmen, court told

Police shots felled 'hitman'

UNDERCOVER police marksmen shot a hitman just as he was about to complete a contract killing, an Old Bailey jury was told yesterday...

The officer in charge of the operation had had to strike a delicate balance between the gathering of evidence and the saving of life, the court was told...

The shootings in south London on September 20 last year were the result of a "long-standing and bloody feud"...

Michael Boyle, aged 48, from Dublin, had shot Anthony Brindle three times outside his home in Rotherhithe...

Disguised in a wig and using a stolen van, he had driven to the small square where Mr Brindle lived...

Boyle is pleading not guilty to attempting to murder Mr Brindle and to possession of two handguns with intent to endanger life...

David Roads, 52, from south London, is pleading not guilty to attempted murder and possession of firearms...

The court heard that the Brindles were a south London family well known to the police...

There was a feud between them and others, including a London criminal called Peter Daly...

Boyle had allegedly been hired as hitman and the police had learned of the plot. He had travelled from Dublin to London at least six times between April and September...



Scene of the shooting at Rotherhithe, south London. Below, Anthony Brindle, shot twice before police could intervene

shown surveillance film of Boyle within a few yards of Mr Brindle...

The court also heard that in February last year Boyle had been arrested in Dublin and had become an informer for the Garda...

He also told them Daly had asked him to sort out the Brindles, with whom he was having problems...

Boyle said the Brindles had a gang from Northern Ireland on their side in the feud...

Boyle pursued him, the jury heard. The armed officers challenged him but he did not stop...

He was hit in the elbow, chest, shoulder blades and left hand...

The Garda told Boyle not to take part in the shootings but he ignored their advice...

Commander Roy Clark of the South East Regional Crime Squad was placed in a dilemma, the court was told...

If he informed the Brindles of the plot, there was a danger — "given the bloody background to this dispute" — that they would carry out a pre-emptive strike...

The case continues.

had a target and three hits would possibly be done on the same night...

The Garda told Boyle not to take part in the shootings but he ignored their advice...

Commander Roy Clark of the South East Regional Crime Squad was placed in a dilemma, the court was told...

If he informed the Brindles of the plot, there was a danger — "given the bloody background to this dispute" — that they would carry out a pre-emptive strike...

The case continues.



MAIN PHOTOGRAPH: MARTIN GOODMAN

Victory for part-timers

Appeal Court supports casual worker's claim for sick pay

HUNDREDS of thousands of casual workers could win basic employment rights after the Court of Appeal ruled yesterday that a woman who had worked for nine months on a series of one-day contracts was entitled to sick pay...

Ms Brown, who is supported by the Child Poverty Action Group, will now go back to the Social Security Appeals Tribunal to try to secure an estimated £1,200 sick pay...

Unions hailed the judgment as a breakthrough and the Trades Union Congress said it would seek to use the case to extend other employment rights to casual workers...

Ms Brown said she was surprised at the outcome, "I am pleased that it is all over and that I have been able to set a precedent for other people in my position."

Lisburn bombs: man held

Bruton warns IRA hardliners: 'No more spectaculars or beatings'

It emerged yesterday that the emergency created by the bomb attack on The Oval barracks forced surgeons at Royal Victoria Hospital in Belfast to postpone a number of brain tumour operations...

The RUC can detain the man, believed to be in his 30s, for seven days under anti-terrorist legislation...

The arrest came less than 24 hours after the officer in charge of the investigation appealed to the public for information about cars used in the attack and after a description of one suspect was issued...

benefits that confers, they will have to get rid of the tactical use of violence — for good...

"No more Lisburns. No more spectaculars. No more beatings. No coded warnings. Just the ballot box."

He warned the republicans: "The Government will continue to carry forward the political process, with or without Sinn Fein."

Addressing Unionists, he said the people in the Republic had "no agenda of a progressive takeover of Northern Ireland against the wishes of the majority of people there."

"If there ever was such an agenda or mentality here, it has certainly gone. There is no pan-nationalist front intent on pursuing a malign agenda to undermine the identity or heritage of unionists in their involvement in the United Kingdom."

"Any government I head would never be part of any such agenda."

New row looms over EC plan to cut fish catch

warned that stocks would be largely destroyed if restrictions were not imposed...

There are too many fishermen and too few fish. We must do something to sort out the imbalance: market forces alone will simply lead to bankruptcies, increased costs and decimation of stocks...

The Government was on the verge of another confrontation with the European Commission over the fishing industry last night, as officials warned that it would not accept additional limits on catches without action to stop the national fishing fleet being bought up by foreign companies...

The row is likely to break at Monday's meeting of European fisheries ministers in Luxembourg, with the commission renewing its demand for a 40 per cent cut in the fishing catch for some species over the next six years...

Other member states are also opposed to such a drastic cut in the catch...

When the commission first put forward its plans in the summer it caused an outcry by suggesting a cut in the number of fishing boats. But yesterday it appeared to be giving ground to governments, by insisting it was the number of fish caught that would have to be cut...

Enzo Bonino, the Italian fisheries commissioner, said...

irreversible," she said. The cuts will be phased over a six-year period, and the commission proposes to make about £300 million available each year for compensation and regeneration of fishing areas...

Small coastal vessels will be excluded from the cut in the catch and not all stocks will be affected: quotas for cod, haddock, sardines and hake — the species most in danger — will be reduced, but those for tuna, herring and Baltic sprats will not...

Scientists have warned that some species are in danger of being fished to extinction in the North Sea and North Atlantic, but Tony Baldry, the fisheries minister, has insisted Britain will not agree to major revisions in the amount each country can catch under the Common Fisheries Policy unless quotas-hopping is prevented...

The Government and the fishing industry have been increasingly irritated that British boats are being sold to European companies — particularly Spanish ones — which thereby get access to the British quota of fish...

It has been aggravated by the loss of a case in the European Court of Justice outlawing the Government's attempts to prevent the foreign takeover, and instructing it to compensate the Spanish companies affected...

Mrs Bonino dismissed British fears. "More and more people whose economic activity is not profitable will be pushed to sell and I don't see how anyone can stop people selling their boats or stop people buying them," she said.

'Crisis' over black pupils' exclusion

Commission for Racial Equality, yesterday. There had been a conspiracy of silence over the additional health and education costs as well as stress on the families...

Permanent exclusions have risen rapidly since the introduction of league tables and parental choice, and were being used for a wide and ill-defined range of bad behaviour...

Black Caribbean pupils were being excluded at six times the rate of white pupils, and while the problem was worse for boys, black girls were also suffering disproportionately high levels of exclusion...

Dr Gillborn found, in his figures challenge the picture painted by teaching unions of schools having to expel violent youngsters for the safety of staff and fellow pupils, only to have them flogged back on the classroom by appeal panels or governors...

Physical aggression or bullying was the reason for only 27 per cent of all exclusions, according to official figures. The great majority were dealt with for constantly refusing to comply with school rules, verbal abuse or insolence...

"In some areas it is no exaggeration to say that the exclusion of black young people has reached crisis proportions. In less than a full academic year more than one in 10 of Nottingham's black secondary pupils were involved in exclusion procedures. About one in 40 white children were involved during the same period (1995/96)."

In two Nottinghamshire schools, teachers recently threatened to strike rather than accept unruly (white) pupils back into the classroom. However, Dr Gillborn found that nationally only one in 20 exclusions were overturned by school governors...

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EU commissioner seeks tighter anti-smoking laws

TOUGHER anti-smoking laws are sought by Padraig Flynn, European Union social affairs commissioner, in a drive to reduce the estimated 500,000 tobacco-related deaths a year in Europe...

Among the suggestions Mr Flynn is expected to make this month to the full European Commission are reductions in tar and nicotine levels, stronger health warnings and regulation of other cigarette ingredients...

The ideas are in a review of EU policies on tobacco to be launched by Mr Flynn, including the 1 billion Ecu (£800 million) of subsidies to tobacco farmers. He may propose restricting the use of cigarette vending machines to deny young people access to them, and harmonising tobacco taxes to make cigarettes more expensive in some member states...

The commission's 1991 proposal to ban most cigarette advertising is still being blocked by several countries, including Britain, Germany and the Netherlands. Labour's recent backing for a ban has raised commission hopes that EU legislation will be adopted if the party wins power...

Advertisement for 'QUALITY U.K. MADE WAX JACKET ONLY £25+p&p'. Includes a list of features like 'CORD COLLAR', 'SEAMLESS SHOULDER FOR ADDED WATER RESISTANCE', and a contact form for ordering.

Vertical advertisement on the right edge of the page, partially cut off, mentioning 'Clarke v Doubter', 'defiant', 'Chancellor', 'Shepherd', 'ways to death', and 'Bottomley'.

# Clarke wins over doubters with defiant message

Michael White  
Political Editor

**T**HE Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, yesterday won a prolonged ovation from Tory activists in Bournemouth despite giving them a defiantly candid message about the hard choices they face on tax cuts and the European single currency.

The embattled chancellor contrived to use a well-crafted speech to yoke the two issues together as he held out the prospect of moving towards a 20p basic tax rate, eventual abolition of capital gains and inheritance tax and the 10p reduction of public spending to below 40 per cent of national wealth.

"Our policy on economic and monetary union is part of our policy on the economy," he argued after hammering away at the central theme of the week that Britain's economic prospects are now the best for a generation.

Amid speculation that one false sentence might precipitate heckling from his ardent Eurosceptic critics, Mr Clarke reassured the cabinet line. He insisted that the single currency project would affect Britain whether it was in or out.

"It is in Britain's interest to keep all our options open. We should decide when we have to, not before. When we do decide Britain's choice will be free. By staying in the game we sacrifice nothing and we gain much," he told the con-

ference before joining the increasingly vocal cabinet plea for unity before the election.

Proclaiming his party to be "tax-cutters by instinct", Mr Clarke warned the Budget in six weeks' time would not include unsustainable cuts that have to be reversed.

His claim that ordinary families are now 5700 a year better off than in 1992 was quickly rejected by Labour's Treasury team. Making allowance for 22 new taxes — the £17 billion Lamont-Clarke

**'By staying in the game, we sacrifice nothing and gain much'**

drive to curb borrowing — they were £130 a year worse off, Labour insisted.

Mr Clarke's goal was to dampen down his party's immediate expectations to earn the trust of the British people, we have to follow one Tory golden rule. We only cut taxes when we can afford to, and when it is good for the economy," he said in his speech.

Faced with an audience packed with potential critics of both cautious policies, Mr Clarke insisted that they could still win the coming general election, but only by following his advice — not overturning it under a new chancellor as many of them want. "If Labour fight the election on the economy, they

know they will lose. If we fight on the economy we will win. And with a Tory government back in power, the economy will do even better," the chancellor assured doubters.

The cheers which punctuated the speech were loudest when left and right in the audience could agree on a proposition. They cheered noisily when he declared opposition to the EU's single currency. But the loudest laugh came when he mocked his Labour shadow and frequent sparring partner. "Gordon Brown bases his policies on the Dolly Parton school of economics: an unbelievable figure, blown out of all proportion, with no visible means of support," said Mr Clarke.

In his passage on the single currency, the chancellor sought to present last April's Cabinet compromise in a positive light, despite pressure ever since to push Mr Major to rule out early British membership.

"All Conservatives agree on far more things in the European Union than we ever debate." Amid loud applause he went on: "We all support a partnership of nations and we are all hostile — I am hostile — to a United States of Europe."

John Major prolonged the applause by joining Mr Clarke and raising his arms in triumph after the chancellor had wound up an anodyne economic debate that had been organised to prevent critics of the key policies from airing their views.

Leader comment, page 8



Kenneth Clarke yesterday... 'We only cut taxes when we can afford to'

## John Major Conservative Party leader

### Progress report

Thatcher's last speech as party leader was at Bournemouth. John Major's might be too. If the polls translate into votes at the general election, he will not be Prime Minister next time the Conservatives gather, and it is Michael Portillo and John Rowland who have their way, he will not be party leader either. By the standards his Government has set since the 1992 election, the last 12 months have not been that bad for him. Resignations have been kept to a minimum: David Heathcoat-Amory from the Government and Emma Nicholson from the party. The legislative programme was kept as controversy-free as possible, and the economy has been improving, though not accompanied by the elusive feel-good factor. Europe has continued to torment him, not helped by BSE.

### Today's performance

Every speech since he has become Prime Minister has been billed as 'meats or break', and in the end it has not made any difference. But he could do with a good speech to motivate his party to get out and work during the election campaign. There will be passages on Northern Ireland, virtually ignored by conference all week, the good economic statistics and the dangers of a Tony Blair government.

### Prospects

Chances of inspired oratory? None. The traditional shape of the party conference was changed this week to accommodate his poor delivery. The Question and Answer session worked, showing him relaxed, less stiff, with a sense of humour. Expect more of this 'man of the common people' theme if he can find a way of getting it to fit into the formal structure of the end-of-conference speech. A good conference for the Conservatives, with the unruly Euro-sceptics curbing their excesses, apart from a few rowdy choruses of Land of Hope and Glory, but virtually no one in private harbours much hope of winning the election.

### Today's business

- Appeal for party funds by Lord Parkinson
- PM's speech

# Chancellor considers how he can justify tax cuts

## Analysis

Larry Elliott  
Economics Editor

**K**ENNETH Clarke was slightly disingenuous yesterday when he said the debate in the Tory Party was not about whether to cut taxes, but when and how to cut them. Few are in any doubt about the "when". Taxes will be cut on November 26. What the Chancellor has yet to work out is the "how".

Norman Lamont in 1992

had a simple solution to justifying tax cuts when public finances were in a mess; he came up with spurious figures for borrowing that were proved to be 57 billion awry once the Conservatives had won their fourth term.

The current Chancellor knows neither the markets nor the voters would buy another transparent attempt to cook the books. "To earn and keep the trust of the British people, we have to follow one Tory golden rule," he said yesterday. "We only cut taxes when we can afford to, and when it is good for the economy."

Given that the Public Sec-

tor Borrowing Requirement is currently on course to be more than £25 billion this financial year, the City sees no justification for tax cuts.

But in view of Labour's enormous poll lead, Mr Clarke's task next month is to make tax cuts "believable". Anything else would risk an adverse reaction from the City, leading to higher interest rates and the final snuffing out of Mr Major's electoral hopes.

Mr Clarke will have three aims in mind sketching out his Budget proposals. First, he will want to cut taxes. That will mean a penny off the basic rate of income tax to 23

pence, costing £2 billion. This will bring the Government one step closer to its long-term aim of a 20 per cent basic rate of income tax. But Mr Clarke would also like to approach the 20 per cent target from the other end — by widening the lower rate 20 per cent band to include more taxpayers.

The Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) calculates that £1 billion would widen the lower band by £1,350 of the first £5,250 of taxable income.

The Chancellor's second priority will be to increase public spending in the key areas of health and education. Finally, Mr Clarke will want

to show the markets that he takes the size of the PSBR seriously by knocking perhaps another £1-1.5 billion off public borrowing. All told, this could add up to £6 billion, which would have to be found either through reductions in public spending or higher taxation in non-sensitive areas.

Lower than expected inflation means the Government can deliver the same volume of public services for less money. According to the IFS and Goldman Sachs, this should be worth £500 million.

Another easy target is public capital spending, since Mr Clarke can claim that any cuts will be compensated for

by the Private Finance Initiative. This could provide him with another £2 billion. As for tax, the curb on share-buy-backs announced this week should net £450 million, while a doubling of the insurance premium tax to 5 per cent would garner £650 million.

The IFS believe the Chancellor may have his eye on tax relief on profit-related pay, which costs the Exchequer an estimated £1.5 billion a year.

If that is still not enough, Mr Clarke can always jiggle around with next year's £4.6 billion contingency reserve. But somehow, and from somewhere, the money will be found.

# Shepherd offers schools tough ways to deal with unruly pupils

Rebecca Smithers  
and John Carvel

**T**EACHERS are to be given tough new powers to discipline unruly pupils including detention after school without parents' consent. The Government announced yesterday in a package of reforms for an Education Bill to be introduced this autumn.

"The ambitions of the many must not be thwarted by the elitist holism of the few," said Gillian Shepherd, the Education and Employment Secretary, in a speech designed to put discipline, diversity and higher educational standards at the centre of the election battlefield.

Her strong line was welcomed by headteachers' leaders, but the National Consumer Council said proposal for parents to sign binding contracts covering homework, behaviour, dress and attendance would be "unworkable and counter-productive", undermining recent improvements in partnership between parents and teachers.

The Association of Metro-

politan Authorities said teachers would be unable to implement her plan to detain pupils without parents' permission during the lunch break or after school. Mrs Shepherd knew parents had to be at least consulted under European human rights law, and compulsory detention on the day a pupil committed a misdemeanour was impractical.

Mrs Shepherd said her new measures built on Conservative principles which were "about achieving, about independence and success, about fulfilling potential, about ambitions and aspirations".

The controversial assisted places scheme — which Labour has pledged to scrap — would be extended to private primary schools. And in a further opening up of "clear blue water" between the two parties, Mrs Shepherd pledged to establish more new grammar schools. The Government will extend it from two pilots covering 8,000 people to around a dozen unemployment "black-spots" including the North-east. It also envisages a greater



Gillian Shepherd... 'blatant holism of the few'

role for the private sector, which could take the schemes over completely. In addition, plans to give very young person more opportunities to learn, get qualified and prepare for work will be set out in a December white paper. This will explore ways of strengthening A-level and other qualifications for

16-plus, while introducing "learning credits" to help young people to make better choices of what and where to study.

Under the new Education Bill — to be included in the Queen's Speech this month — schools would get extra flexibility to exclude pupils for 45 days in any year, rather than the current 15 days in any term. New contracts between schools and parents will be a condition of admission, placing a duty on families to ensure their children's attendance and good behaviour.

Mrs Shepherd told journalists after her speech it would be a "stoolish parent" who refused to sign a contract, and that some sort of appeals system would be introduced to deal with such cases.

She mocked the poor performance of schools in labour-controlled local authorities. She also ridiculed Tony Blair and his shadow cabinet colleague, Harriet Harman, over their choice of school for their children. "He [Mr Blair] may live in Islington, but thanks to Conservative policies, he does not have to use its schools," she said.

# Mawhinney red-faced after 'Labour defector' unmasked

Michael White

**T**HE Conservative chairman, Dr Brian Mawhinney, was forced to retreat in disarray along Bournemouth's seafront yesterday when a much-trumpeted "Labour defector" turned out to be less than the genuine article.

Within hours of Marco Forgiome, a 26-year-old self-employed caterer from Yeovil, being introduced to a press conference, he had been denounced as a non-member by Labour Party members or voted Labour at a general election, though he had at local level.

Dr Mawhinney has had his share of mishaps since succeeding the accident-prone Jeremy Hanley as chairman. Learning from last year's ill-starred jibe at the Camden Asian Women's Hopscotch Group during his conference speech, the chairman cut his losses yesterday and hurriedly ushered away his charge away into the Bournemouth conference centre.

worked alongside Jack Straw. "Behind the scenes, I saw the reality of what is going on in New Labour. I saw in-fighting, bickering, scheming and politeness cobbled together for political expediency. I saw New Labour's egos, the posturing for personal ambitions, the wallowing in bitterness and the back-stabbing," Mr Forgiome said.

But in his first appearance before the press Mr Forgiome admitted under questioning he had never actually been a Labour Party member or voted Labour at a general election, though he had at local level.

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# Bottomley bursts into surprise song

Rebecca Smithers on venture into verse

**H**ERITAGE Secretary Virginia Bottomley yesterday unveiled plans for "OBE-style" awards for young people in a move to offer recognition to Britain's "unsung heroes".

But in a highly political speech which began with a sustained attack on Labour's plans to reform the constitution, Mrs Bottomley won more applause for her singing.

Delegates appeared stunned when she broke off from her prepared speech to deliver her own rendition of "HMS Tony Blair" in the "savvy opera" style of Gilbert and Sullivan.

unaccompanied and somewhat tunelessly. After the first verse the audience cheered, thinking Mrs Bottomley had finished, but she carried on.

Mrs Bottomley revealed later that Dr Madsen Pirie, head of the rightwing think tank, the Adam Smith Institute, had "helped" her.

Other politicians who have ventured into verse include Lady Thatcher, who "lited" a couplet to the tune of "Daisy, Daisy", concerning the two leaders of the Liberal-SDP Alliance, David Steel and David Owen, and Lord Callaghan who teased trade union leaders in 1978 over the date of the 1979 election by singing: "There was I, waiting at the church..."

**ITN'S BEAT**

*As a boy he went to public school  
And he learned one very important rule:  
If you say what people want to hear  
Your advancement soon will be very, very clear*

*He used that rule so ruthlessly  
That now he is the ruler of the Labour Party*

*In listening some time he passed  
And adopted all the manners of the chattering class  
He drank white wine and he acted cool  
And he sent his son to an off-out school*

*He went in style to Tuscanos  
And now he is the ruler of the Labour Party*

*Spiv-dollars rule. He stopped all thought  
He gaggled John Prescott and he banned Clare Short  
Now he only says what people think is nice  
And he offers you this piece of very wise advice:*

*Just smile through your teeth and avoid police  
And you all could be rulers of the Labour Party*

# Bournemouth 96

**J**OHN MAJOR'S shirt-sleeve session on Wednesday has caused a row at ITN. Political correspondent Tom Bradley filed a report on the session for the early evening bulletin in which he said that the PM took his jacket off "Tony Blair style". Within minutes ITN's Thatcher-enbodied political commissar Dame Sue ("I can pick up the phone whenever I want to and speak to John Major") Tinson came on to demand immediate withdrawal of the Blair reference and an extra slice of Major, threatening unmentionable consequences for ITN if her orders were not carried out. They were.

**N**EIL HAMILTON may not have been among us this week, but he has at

least contributed an article to the conference edition of the Thatcherite magazine Forward. In it he advocates the privatisation of the welfare state along Chilean lines. It calls to mind those warm conference evenings in the 1980s when such free-thinkers of the right would gather at fringe meetings excitedly chanting "Thatcher Reagan! Thatcher Reagan!" Happy days.

**I**N EVERY previous Conservative Party conference at Bournemouth, the press have been dumped in the swimming pool, which, suitably drained for the occasion has served as our working area. This year, the swimming pool has been turned into a champagne and sea food bar and the press have been consigned to an area which seems suspiciously like an underground car park.

Or at least some of us have. The Murdoch press and the Telegraph have been accommodated in plusher quarters nearer the watching eyes of the party press officers. They get carpets, a proper ceiling and heating. Lefty reprobrates like the Guardian and the Fi-

nancial Times are literally out in the cold.

**M**ICHAEL HESSELTINE contributes a mouthwatering concoction to the collection of Cabinet ministers' favourite pudding recipes. But I wonder if his Blackcurrant and Kirsch Sorbet is not also a metaphor for his conference speeches?

Boil sugar and water together for 20 minutes. Allow syrup to cool. Strain the blackcurrants into the syrup. Stir with lemon juice and Kirsch (sorry, Kirsch).

Martin Kettle

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# SPECTATOR



**Major's dream**  
I spent most of September on tour around the country. Norma came with me as she usually does, although this year the tour had quite a different air. This year the press had invented "Stormin' Norma, the Secret Weapon" (No invention this, it has been true for years.) And so Norma attracted more cameras than I did. This was the first time of years the media has got its visual priorities right...

I left the [European Union summit in Dublin] after the meeting, but before dinner. This caused some excitement among the folk who were there to find out when I had told the Irish I was leaving, or why. So the Sunday press proclaimed it a snub! ... I didn't tell the Taoiseach why I left early, but I can now exclusively reveal it was the weekend of our 28th wedding anniversary and given a choice between dinner with Norma or 15 men, Norma won hands down...

On the sidelines of the Dublin meeting I had discussions with three Socialist prime ministers about the recorded video messages they had sent to the Labour conference. One looked surprised that I mentioned this because, he said, such behaviour is routine in the Socialist International. The second looked a bit wounded and the third distinctly defensive. Probably they had seen how their fraternal greetings had been used. They will learn that this present Labour Party is not

very scrupulous... Like most people, I like a lunchtime stroll to get away from my desk. Sadly, the days are gone when I could nip out for a quiet walk and return invigorated. These days, a 'quiet' walk is shared with the cream of the Met, and interrupted by friendly tourists from Milwaukee and Tokyo...

There is often a price to be paid for these walks and, sure enough, as I re-entered No 10, there was John Holmes, my foreign affairs private secretary, in his hand an ugly-looking file and in his eye, a wicked look. "We have this small problem," he said. Small? Not so, Sir Humphrey would have been proud of him.

# Dignity blooms among the damned

Europe reeled when a leper colony was discovered in Romania after the 1989 revolution. Ed Vulliamy reports from Tichilesti by the Danube on the battle against an ancient enemy

**“I** WAIT for death to come,” says Mihai Buzatu, his disfigured face and body like melted wax, sitting on the spot where he has lived for decades and knows he will die. “What else is there for us to wait for?”

Today, doctors gather for a World Health Organisation conference aimed at eradicating leprosy before the new millennium one of the most mysterious and awe-inspiring of diseases, which curses Mr Buzatu: leprosy.

On the edge of the Danube delta, a stone's throw from the Ukrainian border, it was discovered in 1990, its roof falling down, without heating in the cruel winter, its patients living in misery.

Most of the 39 patients are healed, but forced to remain in the colony bearing their scars: limbs or fingers missing, faces and bodies disintegrated. They sit chatting on benches in the courtyard.

There has long been a suspicion that the journalists' perk contributes to complacency about reporting on corruption or the illegal activities of MPs.

In the provincial press MPs are often owners or on the board and can control appointments.

Many deputies only backed the journalists' cause after their local papers threatened to ignore their activities — the “invisible man” tactic.

## Left Bank to lose heart of its history

**Alex Duval Smith in Paris**  
IN CAFES where tourists pay 20 francs (£2.50) for an espresso just to keep Sartre's seat warm, glares are darting over the rims of half-moon spectacles: the soul of Saint-Germain-des-Prés is for sale.

brought the world bohemian chic, ready-to-wear is seen as the fashion equivalent of McDonald's.  
Gallimard says it is not closing Le Divan, just moving it to the 15th district — home of late 20th century intellectuals which cannot afford flats in Saint-Germain-des-Prés.



Tourists fill the cafes of Saint-Germain-des-Prés, once the haunt of figures such as Simone de Beauvoir and Jean-Paul Sartre. Property prices have driven out today's intelligentsia

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## Silence is golden for Gallic press

**Paul Webster in Paris**  
FRENCH MPs began to back down yesterday from a confrontation with journalists over tax reforms after newspapers threatened to stop reporting parliament if their perks were taken away.

Rightwing MPs lodged an amendment to the Gaullist government's proposal to do away with a 30 per cent special deduction on journalists' declared earnings.

Journalists' unions, backed by newspaper owners, have called for a national strike on Tuesday when the budget measure is discussed, but support for the amendment among government deputies is so overwhelming that it is expected to be carried easily.

journalists would not benefit from proposals for more general income tax cuts.  
The national journalists' union, the SNJ, says the concessions offset the profession's dependence on expenses.

## Nato treads fine line in Baltics

**John Henley in Helsinki on three small republics upsetting Europe's security map**  
FOR nearly eight centuries, foreign armies have tramped over the three Baltic states. Now, five years after the collapse of the Soviet Union finally gave them their independence, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania are once more a growing focus of superpower tension.

As Nato seeks to expand eastward, diplomats fear that these three small republics, a battleground throughout history, could again cause problems far beyond their borders.

disintegration of the union. Latvia and Estonia have large Russian minorities and Moscow regularly accuses its former satellites of discriminating against them.

Nonetheless, some Western diplomats in the Baltics remain sceptical "is someone from St Louis really prepared to die defending Daugavpils (in eastern Latvia)?" asked one official.



THE GUARDIAN INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE OF THE ECONOMICS, SPORT AND OUR INITIATIVE TO MAKE NOW TAKE THE NEWSPAPER WITH EACH DAY AT A REASONABLE PRICE. GUARDIAN INTERNATIONAL SIMPLY GET HOLD OF A COPY AND WRITE TO VAN GELDEREN, KROILAN...

Jonathan Steele in Khinjan uncovers a united front against Afghanistan's dominant militia which splits the country on ethnic lines

# Taliban's warlord rivals cement secret alliance



A widow takes her children home through the ruins of their deserted neighbourhood in Kabul PHOTOGRAPH: JOHN MOORE

**T**HE Taliban militia, on a crusade to restrict women's rights and establish the world's harshest Islamic regime, suffered a potential setback yesterday when Afghanistans two leading warlords formed a powerful military and political alliance against them.

General Rashid Dostam, the Uzbek militia leader, and Ahmed Shah Massoud, the Tajik former defence minister, met in an old Russian guesthouse on the northern slopes of the Hindu Kush. They shook hands at the beginning, hugged each other at the end and in the intervening 90 minutes agreed to issue an ultimatum to the Taliban to sue for peace or face a united military front.

Gen Dostam and Commander Massoud had not met in the three years since, in one of the country's many shifts in power, the general walked out of the mullah-led government in Kabul and turned his guns on it.

A helicopter clattered into Khinjan shortly before 3pm, bringing Commander Massoud from his headquarters in the Panjshir valley. Gen Dostam had arrived earlier in an armoured Cadillac. He then took a four-wheel drive vehicle to the Salang pass to inspect his forces, who control the strategic tunnel through the Hindu Kush mountain range.

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announced later. Finally, they warned the Taliban that they would jointly resist "anyone who continues to fight against one of the signatories of this statement".

The dramatic meeting came shortly after Commander Massoud's forces mounted a hit-and-run attack on the Bagram air base, 30 miles north-east of Kabul. The Taliban thwarted the attack with the loss of several men, but burnt down a house in retaliation.

## Another nail in LA's coffin

Christopher Reed in Los Angeles

**L**OS ANGELES is doomed to die of drought, if an earthquake doesn't end it first.

State and city water officials, worried by the findings, are holding talks with Dr Stine to develop such a plan. He found that the LA basin suffered two droughts in the Middle Ages, one lasting 220 years and the other 140 years. The evidence came to light in the drought of 1987-92 when ancient tree stumps were found on the bed of dry lakes in the Sierra Nevada mountains.

Information in the growth rings and radio-carbon dating enabled him to find evidence in the stumps of droughts ending in the 13th and 14th centuries. The climate of the LA basin has been a useful tool to politicians and businessmen alike. In the early days of migration from the eastern states, newcomers were tempted by crooked estate agents who lauded LA's "Mediterranean" weather. They would show home buyers the glorious wild (desert) flowers of spring, omitting to mention winter's flash floods, and the absence of rain for half the year.

## Hired mouths lend spin to screen showdown

Jonathan Freedland in St Petersburg, Florida

**T**HE spin cycle has taken another turn as the moulders of American public opinion have discovered a sophisticated new technique to advance their cause: the placard.

one journalist to talk to their hired mouth. There were few takers for the former presidential candidate Lamar Alexander's business was painfully slow at the stall of Gaston Caperton, the little-known governor of West Virginia.

Niagara Falls. The trouble, said Mr Gore, is that the Dole-Kemp plan "would put the American economy in a barrel and send it over the falls".

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## Carbon dioxide researchers put ocean in bloom with iron filings

Tim Radford Science Editor

**B**IOLGISTS tracing how much carbon dioxide goes into the sea have made the oceans bloom — by giving it iron.

## Fingerless skeleton may stay to haunt Salinas

Phil Gannon in Mexico City

**A**SKELETON found buried in a property owned by Raúl Salinas, the brother of the former Mexican president, could belong to a key figure implicated in the September 1994 murder of José Francisco Ruiz Massieu, general secretary of the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party, the country's attorney-general said.

## Carbon dioxide researchers put ocean in bloom with iron filings

Tim Radford Science Editor

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## News in brief

### Arafat warns of renewed intifada

**T**HE Palestinian Authority president, Yasser Arafat, said yesterday that his negotiators had achieved nothing in their crisis talks with Israel.

### Bildt opposes Bosnia pull-out

**T**HE international mediator Carl Bildt called yesterday for foreign peacekeeping troops to stay in Bosnia until 1998 to give the country a chance to recover from war.

### Serbia to take back refugees

**S**ERB-DOMINATED Yugoslavia agreed to repatriate 135,000 refugees living illegally in Germany in a treaty signed yesterday, promising they would not face discrimination at home.

### Yeltsin squeezes officials

**R**USSIA'S president, Boris Yeltsin, yesterday ordered all government officials to declare their income, in a high-profile effort to fill the federal budget's empty coffers.

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## United at Bournemouth

The trouble is the voters simply don't believe it

IT IS fashionable among observers at this year's Conservative Party conference at Bournemouth to say that the Tories have had a surprisingly good week. And so, up to a point, they have. From the point of view of party management, the conference, which ends this lunchtime, has undoubtedly gone well. The proximity of the election has meant that there have been no open displays of dissent in the hall of the kind which marked conferences earlier in this parliament. Senior figures in the party have spoken more or less as one. A high-level Cabinet operation to support Kenneth Clarke's position and to maintain the April 1996 Cabinet agreement on policy towards the single currency has been impressively and effectively driven through the week's proceedings; the work begun by Malcolm Rifkind on Wednesday was carried further yesterday, not just by Mr Clarke and Michael Heseltine but also, significantly, by Michael Portillo. This conference will have disappointed those who were looking for the Conservative Party to collapse into internecine madness.

There was also, in John Major's question-and-answer session on Wednesday morning, a reminder that the Tory leader has instincts and abilities to which people genuinely respond and which constitute a genuine threat to Labour Party confidence. Mr Major was immensely effective on Wednesday, though his achievement has to be seen in its context and not overhyped. He won over an audience which wanted to support him, and he did it by articulating an absolutely realistic tactical opposition to Eurosceptic demands with an authority which many in that hall, accustomed to hearing only anti-European rants and to reading only anti-European newspapers, can rarely, if ever, have heard before. It was possible, in the hall, actually to feel Mr Major winning the argument and enhancing

his position. He had come to Bournemouth in low esteem among his enemies, and even his supporters, amid speculation that he might yet be forced to commit himself to a more Eurosceptic position on the single currency. He leaves Bournemouth more respected and more secure in his leadership even than last year (when he had recently defeated John Redwood's challenge). That security is strictly temporary, until the election, and contains an implicit assumption that he will no longer be leader in 12 months' time, but even this is a luxury he has not enjoyed often, and it gives him greater authority as the seven-month campaign begins in earnest.

However, it is one thing for a party to persuade itself to be united, and quite another for the country to notice it or to appreciate the fact. The Tory party has a natural impulse towards electoral survival and a belief in its entitlement to govern, and there is a widespread, if belated, recognition that it now faces a Labour Party which seeks its objectives with, as Mr Heseltine put it yesterday, steely discipline. There are therefore two crucial questions to ask about the Tory Party at the end of this conference. First, has it achieved anything more positive this week in the way of collective vision and fresh thinking? The answer to that is no. There have been very few substantive new proposals on show at Bournemouth and, although Mr Major's speech today may spring some surprises, there have been more promises to examine than commitments to act. Second, are the voters likely to change their well-established antipathy to a tired and crumbling government on the basis of a single week's damage limitation exercise, always supposing that it does not quickly fall apart? Nothing is impossible in politics, but the odds remain very firmly against it.

## A carelessness with freedom

A privacy law may be inevitable. What an epitaph for an age

WE MAY be approaching a crisis in tabloid journalism. Over the past 10 years the mass-circulation papers owned by Rupert Murdoch and Mirror Group Newspapers have redefined their role so as to have less and less to do with news and more and more to do with entertainment. If they restricted themselves to resurrecting Elvis or discovering Routemaster buses on the moon, no-one would mind very much. As it is, they find their entertainment in exposing the human frailties of almost anyone who is in the public eye, and quite a few who aren't.

We are now perilously close to having some form of privacy law introduced in this country. That is something which this newspaper has always resisted. Any editor naturally shrinks from legislation which would bring the blunt and punitive expensive weapon of the law to bear still more on the already fragile right to publish. How would any law distinguish between Clare Short and Neil Hamilton; between Michael Fish and Robert Maxwell; between Sarah Ferguson when it suits her and Sarah Ferguson when it doesn't? Yet there must eventually come a time when honest journalists and proprietors will be forced to acknowledge the failure of self-regulation and reluctantly concede the case for the introduction of external restraints.

If that day comes, let us be clear who will be to blame: Rupert Murdoch and David Montgomery. It would be a heavy burden to go down as the men responsible for so carelessly throwing away precious freedoms won so dearly. Is that really the epitaph they crave?

So Lord Wakeham is right once more

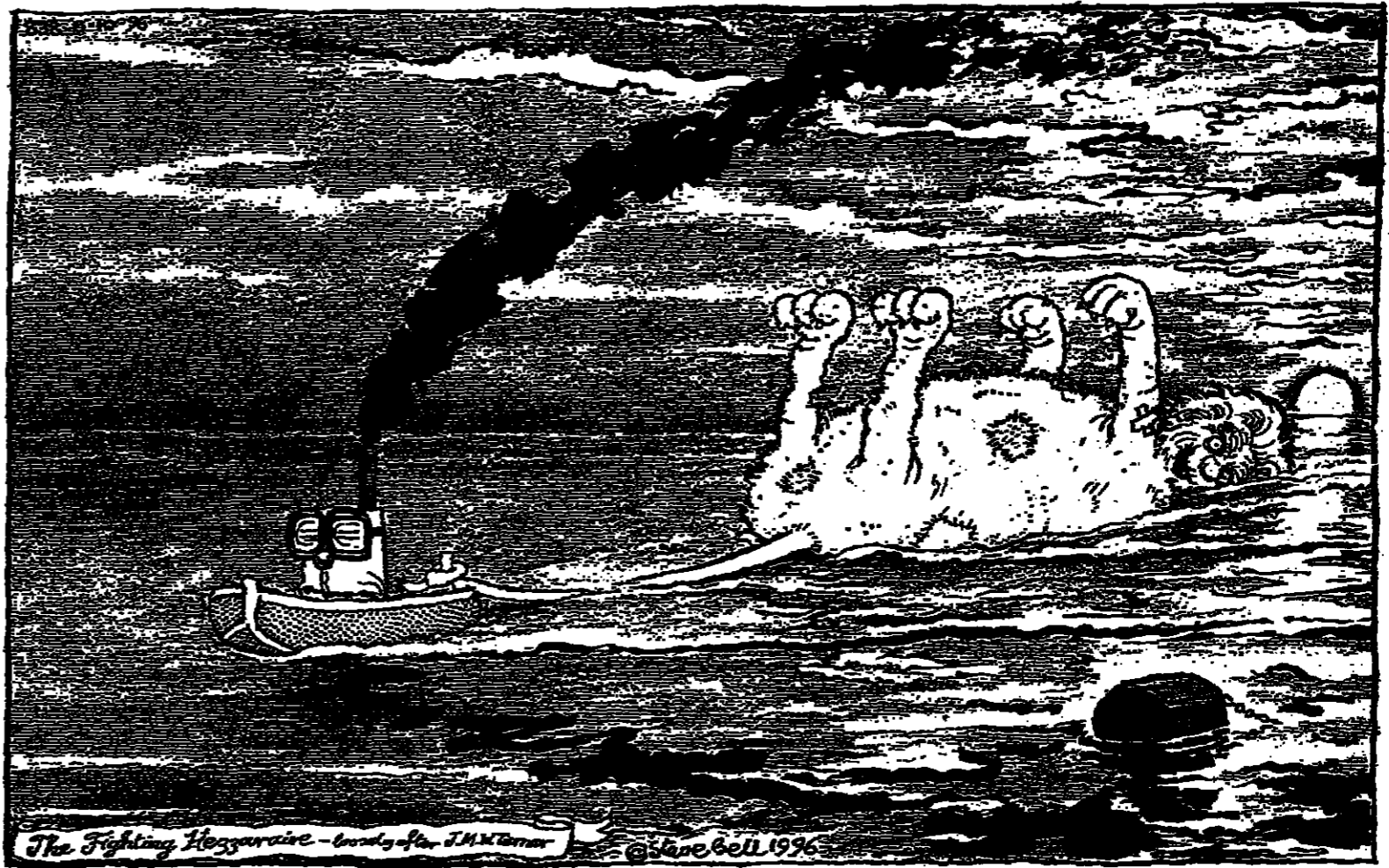
## John Major's conference diary

In which he reflects on shirt sleeves and difficult questions

TO BORROW a phrase from my footballing friends, I am in no small measure over the moon. Wednesday turned out to be a historic day, after my "shirtsleeves" Q & A session was acclaimed, as Dr Brian Mahwinney had predicted, as a "bravura" performance. As one was said afterwards, so much for the old, stuffed-shirt image (a joke which would have had the Conference rocking with laughter, if only I had thought of it earlier). Am I the first party leader to address a conference in shirtsleeves? I'm glad you asked me that, because the answer is a resounding yes. I always say there are two sorts of politicians: those who keep their jackets on — with all the unpleasant discomfort and awful artificiality involved — and those, like me, who prefer to discard them entirely, relax and share a quiet joke with friends. As I said to Brian afterwards, can you picture Mrs Thatcher in shirtsleeves? Or

John Redwood? Not to mention our good friend Mr Tony Blair! We both roared.

But trust the Labour Party to claim that Tony Blair was the first to take his jacket off. As usual, they are not fooling anyone. And anyway, even if Tony Blair has been taking his jacket off for years, it just goes to show how his pampered upbringing leaves him out of touch with most ordinary British people. As a former resident of Brixton, I was 18 before I owned a jacket and, in my family, even shirts were considered a luxury. In his autobiography, my brother Terry has already described how, for many years, we all wore reinforced cotton vests, which we simply stuffed with straw and old newspapers when the nights drew in. Can we rule out a tax on jackets? Now that would be telling, wouldn't it? One last question — can we rule out sleaze? Sorry madam, we're out of time!



## Letters to the Editor

### A woman's role in the police

WHILE I am sorry that your correspondent (Letters, October 9) had such an unhappy time with her local police force, and understand the pain reported in your article (Inside Story, October 9), I totally reject your letter headline that "the police force is no place for any self-respecting female".

Police work requires confident people who are able, as far as possible, to maintain their humanity, sensitivity and integrity, despite what sometimes happens to them on the streets. We have many impressive women and men who fulfil that achievement.

The problems of harassment are increasingly being recognised and many individual grievances are properly resolved. The police service, like many other organisations, dislikes contested industrial tribunals and counteracting publicity which might be generated by aggrieved individuals. But that does not mean that senior officers are not working to improve things.

Your second correspondent would find many victims of rape who would applaud the sensitivity of the police.

Alexa Jones, Police Superintendents' Association, 67a Reading Road, Pangbourne, Berkshire RG8 7JD.

### The unwelcome traveller

ROBERT Jones MP (Letters, October 9) suggests that the recent European Court decision against June Buckley affirms that gypsies have the same rights under the planning process as anyone else.

In reality, however, we must be aware that the granting of planning permission is a highly subjective process. In the run-up to the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act, the Department of the Environment issued circulars suggesting planning permission for travellers should be encouraged. At the time, this encouragement was touted as a solution to welfare concerns arising from the strong measures contained within the Act. However, since the Act, planning permission for travellers has been a rarely achieved phenomenon.

Particularly poignant examples of this are two attempted settlements in Somerset at Kingshill and Fin de Bubble. The DoE inspectors sent to report on these planning cases conducted extensive local inquiries. They both recommended that temporary planning permission should be granted for a trial period. However, in both cases, the Environment Secretary John Gummer overruled his own inspectors and insisted that planning permission should

be refused outright. To suggest that travellers have the same planning access as anyone else is like suggesting we all have the same political access as the likes of Ian Greer.

Jim Casey, 1a Waterloo Road, London N19 5EW.

The Government chose to ignore warnings during debate on the 1994 Bill in the Lords that such discriminating treatment of gypsies would breach international law. The recent judgment of the European Court of Human Rights did not decide this question, but there are many cases following which will do so.

Philip Leach, Legal Officer, Liberty, 21 Tabard Street, London SE1 4LA.

### Frank v Barbara: the final round

BARBARA Castle (Letters, October 7) accuses me of failing to produce the costings of the welfare reforms I have been advocating. At the Guardian fringe meeting during the Labour Party conference in Blackpool, I told her that the costings, which have been undertaken by the Government Actuary's Department, will be published next week.

In the meantime, Barbara might like to publish corrections to her own figures. She has misinterpreted the National Insurance fund contributions and included the sum that goes towards the National Health Service as money being available to finance her reforms. The problem is that Barbara has not changed her ideas despite the massive change in circumstances. She is trying to persuade the Labour Party to adopt a pension scheme that Tory governments have savaged not once, but twice. Suppose she won the argument, what guarantee could she give that a future Tory government would not behave in exactly the same way and halve the value of Serps pensions?

Frank Field MP, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA.

MANY will sympathise with Barbara Castle's condemnation of the Government's neglect of pensioners. Unfortunately, the sad political reality is that few taxpayers would be prepared to subsidise the elderly through higher taxes.

The only viable long-term solution is to introduce legislation that requires every citizen of working age to make regular, monthly contributions to their own pension through the private sector with means-tested assistance for the less well-off.

With a shrinking workforce, an ageing population, and an overburdened welfare state, this will become a necessary evil.

Richard CBE Steel, 17 Montpelier Terrace, Cheltenham, Glos GL50 1UX.

Letters to the Editor may be faxed on 0171 837 4530 or sent by post to 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER, and by e-mail to letters@guardian.co.uk. Please include a full postal address and daytime telephone number, even in e-mailed letters. We regret we cannot acknowledge receipt of letters. We may edit them: shorter ones are more likely to appear.

## And in brief

WILL the Burhill Golf Club (Golf rules handicap adopted on, October 8) also disqualify from family tournaments the 30 per cent of children who are not the sons and daughters of their mothers' husbands? Not to mention those who result from artificial insemination by donor. As the mother of two adopted children I am well aware of prejudice against adoption and adopted children, but rarely is it so blatant. Name and address supplied.

IT is strange that the Sun apologises to Princess Diana and James Hewitt only when it is revealed that the video pictures it publishes are a hoax. This implies that, were the film genuine, it would have no such qualms — in the public interest, of course.

Adrian Bending, 231 Elgin Avenue, London W9 1NH.

JAMES Beament (Letters, October 10) believes a preference for tonal music is "in-built" because "our hearing mechanism selected these harmonies." If this were so, tonal music would be as universal as colour perception. But it's not. Tonality was developed by Western Europe at the Renaissance and is not used by other musical forms — in Chinese music, for example. This appeal to a hearing mechanism as "ours" invites "Tonto's" reply: "Who's this 'we', palatface?"

Anthony Easthope, 27 Victoria Avenue, Manchester M20 2QX.

HOW did the referee in Tallin know that Scotland would win the toss and decide to kick off (One-sided victory for Scotland, October 10)? Did he use a double-headed coin? Dennis Ruston, 7 High Street, Horbling, Nr. Sleaford, Lincs NG34 0PE.

NEVER mind pictures of Margaret Thatcher (Letters, October 10). What I find even more odious is the Guardian's willingness, not for the first time, to give a voice to Myra Hindley (Why I refused to call Esther, October 10). Can we not keep this murderer out of our newspaper? Jim Madge, PO Box 5, Oldbury.



## The emperor has no clothes

WHEN Francis Fukuyama suggested that the collapse of the Soviet Union was the "end of history", he sparked a major debate. Now you expect us to take seriously the pronouncements of one Giorgio Armani about the "end of fashion" (Top designers go to war, September 12).

We get daily news from the fashion front about people whose views are inconsequential about events which have as much relevance to our lives as the movement of the

spheres. The opposition between Armani and Versace is treated as though it reflects a profound cultural disjunction, when in effect it is about how a few people, with more money than taste, will wear one frock rather than another. The world of high fashion is irredeemably tedious and irrelevant. Nor does the fact that British designers are at the cutting edge fill me with pride.

Emma Grant, 165 Russell Road, Birmingham B13 8RR.

## Numbers go up, pants come down

THE single most interesting, and dispiriting, finding of your opinion survey (Hamilton should resign now as MP, say voters, October 9) is that 67 per cent believe that MPs of all parties have been accused of taking money to ask questions in Parliament. As far as I am aware, there have been no allegations that Labour or Liberal Democrat MPs have been paid to ask questions, yet more than two-thirds of voters (even 69 per cent of Labour voters) think that there have been such reports.

This shows either that voters are simply not sufficiently interested in the story to be bothered with the facts or, more worrying perhaps, that the "plague" on both their houses" virus has reached such proportions that a majority of people really do think that MPs are "all the same" even when "the evidence" so clearly exonerates this.

The implications for our democracy of such levels of ignorance and/or prejudice are deeply disturbing.

Jim Madge, Brook Lane, Woodgreen.

## Lambeth ways

THE continuing claim by Lambeth that it inherited Enborne Lodge School is not true (£650,000 for empty school, October 9). In the transfer from Ilea in 1990, the school was allocated to Westminster. However, a Lambeth Labour councillor, who is guardian of a boy at the school, persuaded the controlling Labour group to secure the school for Lambeth. It is perfidious that, within a year, the council was seeking to close the school.

It is also quite untrue for Lambeth to claim that it cannot afford the school or that it costs it money. The entire cost is recovered from boroughs with boys at the school. Over the past five years, Lambeth has received an excess of income over expenditure in respect of the school amounting to as much as £150,000 per year.

Tony Freke, Chair of Governors, Enborne Lodge School, Enborne Street, Wash Common, Newbury, Berks RG14 8RL.

## A Country Diary

GLUCESTERSHIRE: The apple tree which stands close to the northern hedge of our garden is probably no more than 30 years old. It is a cooking apple of an unknown provenance, though the estimable Mr Bracher, our hay supplier, tells me that he believes it to be a variety developed on the Berkeley estate in the last century. He's probably right because I do see other specimens in the locality. Whatever its culinary virtues, which go from simple work-a-day apple desserts up to the gastronomic elegance of apple baklava, it is not quite up to the standard set by the Bramley, the sharp acidity of which, combined with its keeping qualities, make it the winner in its class. The age of the tree also ensures that, even with some fairly structural pruning in its earlier life, it remains a large standard in form and I find myself, as I contemplate the crop, wondering about the Bramleys, on dwarf rooting stock, that I planted in our last garden in the Scottish

crops at five years old and five feet high. Saturday afternoon saw me precariously aloft in the tree to gather the crop and convey them to storage in a ventilated top-floor room. At best, they can last round to March. We have been eating the windfalls for some weeks now and the sheep have done even better from these early apples. They, cut to quarters, are very popular in the late afternoon, especially with the older ewes. The flock produced a splendid photo-opportunity early one morning as the overnight temperature fell close to frost. The bales were well filled with the sweet-smelling hay of the June cut and eight ewes were gathered round the hay as I surprised them. They all raised their heads and stopped to look. A lovely visual image presented itself — the ewes all looking up from the hay in autumnal morning sunshine for a picture with the legend, "We all eat and recommend Mr Cullimore's hay" on the lines of a 1930s Horlicks ad.

John Major 1996



Diary  
Matthew Norman

An intriguing letter, dated January 31 1994, has reached the Diary. It is a reply from Sir Alastair Morton, chairman of debt-ridden Eurotunnel, to that great writer of letters, Neil Hamilton. The MP had been in touch on behalf of a constituent, a Mr. Halkett, whose firm, Thermedics, had failed to win a tender to detect explosives in the Channel Tunnel. "In it," writes Sir Alastair of an earlier missive from Mr. Halkett, "he made the very offensive suggestion that the decision to purchase the competitor's equipment had previously been made in France. This is Bullshit." Ignoring that rogue capital "S", we come to the final paragraph. "I would like to suggest to you that Mr Halkett should not try to wrangle his MP with his left hand," writes Sir Alastair, "while pursuing new business in a normal fashion with his right." It's an enchantingly "regal" image, of course, but what the hell does it mean? "This is a private letter," says a Eurotunnel spokesman, at least confirming its genuineness. "and therefore I can make no comment on it." Ah well.

MEANWHILE, Mr Hamilton also figures in the Spectator's ramblings of the Cypriot writer Taki George ("The domestic with the Democritea," as the site of the Ford Transit puts it). T-G empathises with the disgraced MP, he says, having also once thrown in the libel towel: he surrendered to Mohammed Al-Fayed, on getting his Epsommouth TV stander for the latest round of Home Office retribution. Tough on transgressors, tough on the causes of transgression. Two strikes and you're out. One strike and your driving licence is gone. Back — across the mists of time — to the kinder, gentler world of Mr Smith. Tim Smith, the Conservative MP for Beaconsfield, was a junior Northern Ireland Office minister in October 1994 when the Guardian first published its detailed story about cash, questions and

THANKS also to those who have pointed out, somewhat gleefully, that yesterday's item about the gerbil was not wildly original. Apparently, the story appeared in Private Eye three years ago. It also appeared in Private Eye eight years ago. On the "five-year rule", it will reappear in Private Eye in two years' time. Its next scheduled appearance in the Diary is May 17, 1999.

IN a rapid-rebuttal counterstrike, Max Clifford has denied Oofy Wegg-Prosser's claim that he has long been a party member. "All Oofy I've always been a supporter, but never a member," says Max, who will address Mitcham and Morden Labour Party on Monday. "I'm sorry I didn't get back to you sooner," he adds, "but I was out with Mandy... no, not Mandy Mandelson, Mandy Allwood. I haven't met Mandy Mandelson yet." Max continues, "but I'm looking forward to it. I'm sure there's a thing or two we can teach each other..."

OVERHEARD, en route to making his conference speech, was Environment Secretary, Little Gumm Gum. "Remind me of the names of my ministerial team," said Gumm Gum to an aide. "I'm afraid I tend to forget them."

IN the Daily Telegraph, Boris "the Jackal" Johnson appraises John Major's short-sleeved chat. It was, he says, "a triumph for the choroid lens, stamped and cheered the new secret weapon". If some people think that the article might have ended with a line reading "Boris 'the Jackal' Johnson is the Tory candidate in Cwyd South", well, who cares? There will always be tire-some cynics. Meanwhile, there was some concern at Canary Wharf yesterday about the Jackal's whereabouts. "Call back in an hour," said a spokesman. "We'll have a clearer idea when the search party returns from the PM's colon."

A BURGLAR, who broke into an unoccupied house in Leamington, has died. The reason for the house's desertion, so the Forfean Times reports, was that it was being fumigated, and the man was fatally overcome by the chemicals.

ALL RIGHT, THEN, I'LL READ IT. WHERE'S THE SWITCH?



# Mr Smith goes to Westminster

## Commentary Peter Preston

THE Third Man was called Mr Smith: a name that doesn't exactly resound in the memory, a name with no not just when the Neil Hamilton files are open on the table, but when Michael Howard is setting his Epsommouth TV stander for the latest round of Home Office retribution. Tough on transgressors, tough on the causes of transgression. Two strikes and you're out. One strike and your driving licence is gone. Back — across the mists of time — to the kinder, gentler world of Mr Smith.

Tim Smith, the Conservative MP for Beaconsfield, was a junior Northern Ireland Office minister in October 1994 when the Guardian first published its detailed story about cash, questions and

sundry matters. Mr Hamilton and Mr Ian Greer issued libel writs. Mr Smith resigned from HMCo. He had, he told the Prime Minister, "raised some of [Mohamed Al-Fayed's] concerns in Parliamentary Questions and in an adjournment debate. Mr Al-Fayed paid me fees. I ended this relationship with him in 1989. Shortly before then, I made an appropriate entry in the Register of Members' Interests." But that, he admitted frankly, was too little, too late. "I realise these circumstances may be misinterpreted to the damage of both myself and the Government. I offer you my profound apologies."

John Major benignly "repeated this necessity" and was duly "grateful for your clear and full explanation" — but "nonetheless, what you did was clearly wrong, and in these circumstances I accept your resignation." Exit, Mr Smith. And, because others chose not to exit, little was heard of him again.

Indeed, had the Hamilton/Greer libel case gone ahead last week, stretching up-bench and down-bench for a month or so, the world "Smith" might never have troubled a passing juror. Tim Smith, as his own barrister

said in the open preliminaries, was not waiving his Parliamentary immunity. What he did, what he admitted, even his very existence, must be a closed legal book — a thick scroll with a felt pen through the Guardian's original story, removing one name and one half of the action from mention, let alone scrutiny.

We can't know if that bizarre mix and match of waived and unwaived immunity would have been sustained by the judge. But, since the unopened non-court of Sir Gordon Downey rules now, the Member for Beaconsfield would seem to be back in play. There are, thus, a few things the great blanket of forgetfulness swiftly covered from view which may become freshly relevant.

There is the number of questions Mr Smith asked on Mr Al-Fayed's behalf between 1987 and 1989. That number, with an adjournment-debate speech set separately, is 28. A lorra, lorra questions.

There is Mr Smith's retreat from the front-line of question asking — not, it would appear, because of some deep internal moral anguish, but because Tinsy Rowland was vividly assailing his activity

ties through open pamphleteering. There is the baffling episode of July 1993, when David Hencke and John Mullin of The Guardian first approached him and asked whether he had been putting down paid questions on Mr Al-Fayed's behalf. He said: "That is not true." He volunteered only that Harrods had given a couple of teddy bears, which he had declared on the register.

And — perhaps most inscrutable of all — there is the perplexity of what Mr Smith told Mr Major and what Ian Greer Associates told the press on the same day, October 20, 1984. Tim Smith (to repeat) said "Mr Al-Fayed paid me fees." An IGA statement (to the Financial Times) said: "Mr Smith was paid as a consultant, which involved him asking questions on our behalf. That is

### Exit, Mr Smith. And, because others chose not to exit, little was heard of him again

very far from being paid to ask questions."

Here's profound dislocation. Tim Smith quit. But was he on the Al-Fayed books or the Greer books for payment purposes? Does the IGA ledger make any reference to the money that changed hands? If it does, why on earth didn't Mr Smith say so at the time? If it doesn't, then the implication is starkly different: he was recruited and fielded for Harrods by Ian Greer, but

paid direct by Mohamed Al-Fayed (as Harrods in fact claims).

Mr Smith, as his lawyers' claims confirm, obviously wants none of these blasts from the past raised again in polite society. He did something "clearly wrong"; he departed in a convenient instant with no thought of any subsequent investigation. The sacred Privileges Committee did nothing. The House of Commons was predictably supportive in its clubby, sympathetic way. Within a few months Tim Smith was back as a nominated member of the Northern Ireland Select Committee. Last year he became a member of the Public Accounts Committee, Westminster's most hallowed watchdog of financial efficiency — the driving licensee (if you will) of Whitehall financial probity. Some say he may one day be its chairman.

In a better, sweeter world (the world not according to Michael Howard) that might be a small tale of rectitude and redemption. But, alas, we'll be talking different planets when Westminster returns next week. Whatever the law might or might not say, Tim Smith exists. He drew the line when Ian Greer offered his services to Mohamed Al-Fayed, a part of the team as duly provided. And he was paid.

Who did that? How was it done? Can we know a little more about something so "clearly wrong"? After 28 strikes, Mr Smith is not merely not out, but rebuilding a career. Good for him: but only a touch more co-operation and explanation will draw the line beneath events that he, and his party, so edgily crave.

# A foot carefully placed in the avocado dip



Bel Littlejohn

SUFFER? Of course I do, but not how much now as when I was a teenager, reading the early novels of Margaret Drabble. In many ways, Drabble taught a whole generation of women how to feel, and, more crucially, how to feel depressed. There's an unforgettable scene in one of her middle period novels, I forget which. The heroine, Angelica, contemplating suicide while preparing an avocado dip for a theme dinner party for close friends that evening. The theme is misery. It's the 1970s, so when the guests turn up they're all bankrupt and very sad. By 9pm, the avocado dip is exhausted. They all are. For two pages no one says anything whilst the author homes in on the pattern of the tablecloth — a depressing mixture of interlocking triangles, in many ways just like life.

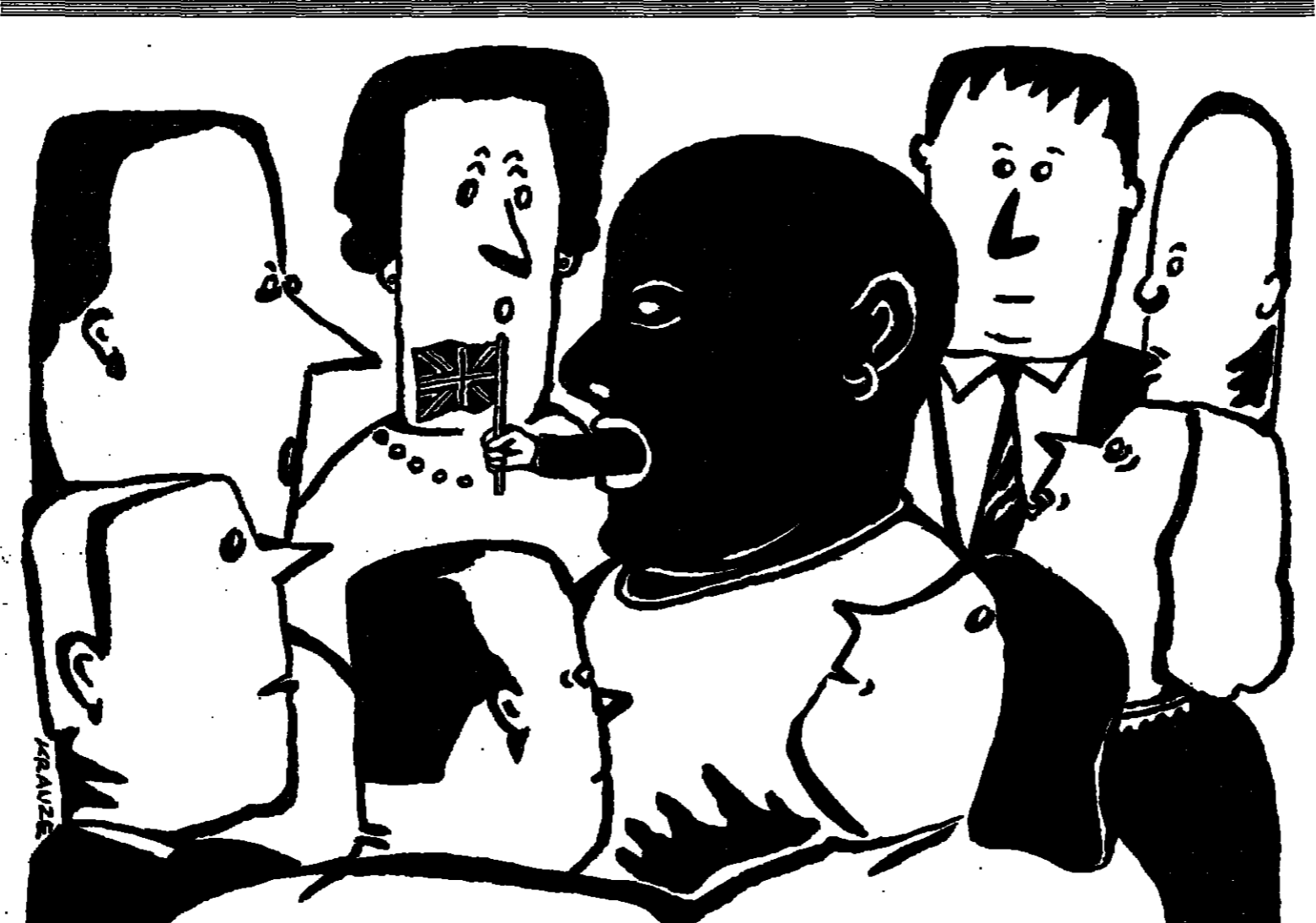
To break the silence, the heroine's friend Paul, a psychiatrist, mentions it's raining outside. Next to him, Sally, a polytechnic lecturer, takes the news badly and has a breakdown. Sally's ex-husband, Phil, blames Paul for mentioning the rain. "How could you be so callous?" he asks. "Chicken Cooked in a Brick with Rosemary, anyone?" asks Angelica, struggling to wipe away the accumulated tears of two failed marriages. Teddy, the failed merchant banker, bursts into a fit of near-hysterical weeping. Angelica blames herself for forgetting that Teddy's first wife was called Rosemary. Rosemary left Teddy for Phil, who had already left Sally after that fling with Paul. To alleviate the tension, Angelica turns on the radio. News comes through of the miners' strike, a major earthquake and two or three plane crashes. "And it's still only 1974," thinks Sally. "We've got another six years to go until the eighties — and who's to say they'll be any better?" She opens the oven and takes out the lemon soufflé. Storm clouds hover over it.

Powerful stuff, and, as ever with Drabble, it captured the mood of the nation at that time. A lot of people were crying into their avocado dips that decade. So I await her very latest novel with the keenest anticipation. But — whoah, Bel! — the subject of today's column is not Margaret Drabble, novelist. It is in fact Margaret Drabble, younger sister of A S Byatt. And my message to them is this: a great big hug

can make all the difference, believe me.

I think I was one of the first to notice the onset of their sibling rivalry. It was at a book-reading at the Hay-on-Wye Literary Festival back in 1983. Margaret was reading a beautifully sensitive passage from her seminal novel about the sixties, Choking to Death. She had just got to the crucial bit where Hermione asks Gladwyn exactly what Celia thinks of Patricia's affair with Marcus, and in particular how it will affect James and the kids. The lecture theatre was hushed in expectation. Suddenly SCRUNCH SCRUNCH SCRUNCH — all eyes turned to the back, where Antonia Byatt — SCRUNCH SCRUNCH SCRUNCH — was tucking into a king-sized packet of Golden Wonder crisps. By the time Antonia had got to the bottom of the packet, James had run off with Gladwyn. Celia had hally positioned in the centre of the station. With impeccable dignity, she sat down, but then — PHWAAAAA-ARRRRPPPI — the most embarrassing of all noises emerged from her seat, followed by unearthly giggles from the back row.

A FULL investigation by The South Bank Show security staff unearthed a used whoopee cushion secreted upon the chair some minutes before. Their perpetrator was revealed as none other than the speaker's sister, Ms Drabble. Similar incidents followed. In 1982, as Byatt walked to the platform at Guildhall to collect her Booker Prize, the Late Show cameras caught the nearest glimpse of a "Black Maf" placard taped to her back, the tell-tale flourish of the "K" suggesting Drabble up to her old tricks again. And the last time I saw Margaret, reading from her latest novel at the Lyttelton Theatre, I was surprised when a grand piano fell headlong from the roof, landing within inches of her feet. Five minutes later, Antonia Byatt was seen in the theatre restaurant ordering a three-course dinner with jelly to follow, a pair of sharp scissors glinting in her breast pocket.



Gary Younge, a Guardian reporter who has just completed a three-month fellowship at the Washington Post contrasts the black experience in Washington and London

# Who do I think I am?

BEFORE I came to America from England, three months ago, I asked an American journalist in London what kind of reactions to expect. "Well, when they hear an English accent Americans usually add about 20 points to your IQ. But when they see a black face they usually don't," he said. "You'll be an anomaly."

Recalling that the authors of The Bell Curve had claimed that black people have an IQ 15 points lower than whites, I had heartened to think that even in the eyes of the most hardened racist I would still come out at least five points ahead. After three months in Washington, I am left wondering whether "anomaly" quite covers the mixture of bemusement, amazement and curiosity I have encountered since I arrived. Often people just think I am showing off. This is especially the case with African-Americans who see a white man with my mouth and they prime themselves to ask: "Who are you trying to impress with that accent?" They don't actually say anything. Their thoughts are revealed in the downward trajectory of the eyebrows and the curl of the lip. Once I say I'm English, the eyebrows go back up and the lips uncurl. Now they are in shock. At times I have had to give the people a couple of minutes to compose themselves. "I had no idea," said a white woman near Baton Rouge, Louisiana, in a tone my grandmother might use if I came out as a cross-dresser. Then there was the woman

colleagues over to hear my accent. "Listen to this, listen to this," she said. "Go, say something," she demanded, as if I was a circus marmoset. Most people here who have not travelled much abroad seem astounded to learn that black people exist outside America and Africa. Their image of England is what they see on television (Fawlty Towers, Upstairs Downstairs) and what they read in the papers (Princess Di, mad cow disease). Whether that is the image that England wants to sell or the one that America wants to buy is not quite clear — my guess is that it's a mixture of both — but either way it doesn't leave much room for black people.

Questions like 'Where are you from?' often mean 'Please tell me you are not from here'

Once I have told someone I am English they are generally prepared to let me at my word, which is more than can be said about people I meet back home. A typical conversation goes something like this: "Where are you from?" "London." "Well where were you born?" "London." "Well, before then?" "There was no before then!" "Well, where are your parents from?"

"Oh, so you're from Barbados." "No, I'm from London." My parents came to England — where I was born — from Barbados in the early 1960s. Like many immigrants, they planned to stay for only a few years, work hard, earn some money and then return home. But like many immigrants, they ended up staying, starting a family and building a life. Blacks now make up about 3 per cent of the British population. Britain's sense of national identity is still trying to catch up. But in the meantime, questions like "Where are you from?" are often interpreted to mean, "Please tell me you are not from here."

Which is why meeting so many Americans with names like Gagliotta, Biskupic and Shapiro is so refreshing. Almost everybody in the US is originally from somewhere else. Even the white people. And most people lay claim to another identity — Italian-American, Irish-American, Hungarian-American — which qualifies their American identity but does not necessarily undermine it.

Black Briton does not come with a hyphen. These are two separate words, relating to two very distinct and often conflicting identities. If black people in Britain define themselves as British at all — I was 17 before I would admit it publicly — then they will usually put "black" in front of it to show that they do not see themselves as fully British and are not always accepted as British. At the annual convention for the National Association for the Advancement of Col-

attended in Charlotte, North Carolina, there seemed to be only three higher authorities to which the speakers called upon — God, the Constitution and the American flag. The NAACP may represent the "old school" of African-American politics, but throughout my time in the States I have met no African-American who does not place some faith in these common reference points. Britain, in contrast, has no written constitution, is far less religious, and you would not get a Union Jack within five miles of a political meeting full of black people, regardless of how moderate the organisation may be. This may change in time.

You would not get a Union Jack within five miles of a political meeting full of black people

But for now the difference seems stark. Black Americans who feel aggrieved can, and often do, look to the symbolism of their national flag as a form of redress. Black Britons see their flag not as a possible solution but as part of the problem. For Americans, this seems to breed a kind of confidence that allows a more open discussion of race issues than in my country. During my interview for the fellowship at The Washington Post, I was asked what problems I faced as a black journalist in Britain.

ask that sort of question. It would be considered... well, rude.

I was amazed, on a recent day-trip to Harper's Ferry, West Virginia, to see an all-white group of Cub Scouts learning all about how John Brown fought alongside black abolitionists and the legacy of Frederick Douglass. White kids learning about black history on a summer holiday day out: I felt like I had died and gone to heaven.

On reflection, it was much more like purgatory. I know that one of the reasons Americans discuss race so much is because there is so much to talk about. Both the present (affirmative action, the demise of the inner cities, poverty, church burnings) and the past (civil rights, slavery, segregation) offer no end of subjects that can and should be debated.

Nevertheless, in England, which has similar but nowhere near as acute social problems affecting the black community, race ranks alongside sex, politics and religion as a topic not to be brought up in polite conversation. At the Guardian, I was once described to someone as "an object of intrigue in public places. At home, I look foreign and sound local and everybody tries hard not to notice. To say one is better or worse than the other would be too simplistic. The bottom line is that I will soon return to a racism I understand. But I will miss those extra

## SHE HAS NOWHERE LEFT TO TURN.



## PLEASE DON'T TURN THE PAGE

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Sir Nigel Fisher

Loyal to the House

THERE was disappointment in the career of Nigel Fisher, who has died aged 83, not least when he learnt on good authority that his name had been struck by the Prime Minister herself from the chief whip's list of nominations to the peerage in 1983...

formed by his 1966 marriage to Patricia Ford, Unionist MP for North Down from 1963 to 1965. Fisher enlisted in the Welsh Guards in 1939. In 1940 he was mentioned in despatches when an Irish Guards battalion and his own held out for several days against two German divisions before evacuation...

He realised overnight that he could not bear to give up politics - and his posting to Kenya was rescinded

and showed great moral courage, but Macleod congratulated him on the speech and shortly afterwards, in July 1962, Fisher finally found himself in government as parliamentary private secretary to Gwilym Lloyd George at the Ministry of Food and at the Home Office...

and showed great moral courage, but Macleod congratulated him on the speech and shortly afterwards, in July 1962, Fisher finally found himself in government as parliamentary private secretary to Gwilym Lloyd George at the Ministry of Food and at the Home Office...



Sir Nigel Fisher... strong support for the Commonwealth

given with typical generosity to Eve Macleod, who had been left with few resources. It was followed in 1977 by probably his best book, a study of the making and unmaking of the Tory Leaders, which drew on Fisher's own knowledge of Heath's downfall and on numerous interviews. Like John Macleod, it is unlikely to lose its value as a source...

John Barnes
Fisher Dixon writes Nigel Fisher was one of the last Conservative MPs to have entered politics out of a sense of duty. Amazed that he

Udom Patpong Siri

A name in the street of shame

THE neon-lit bars of Bangkok's Patpong Road are one of the world's most notorious centres of sex-for-sale nightlife. They are also the legacy associated with Udom Patpong Siri, who has died aged 79 and was dubbed the father of Thailand's sex industry.

moved out in search of bigger premises or different locations, bars and nightclubs rushed in. Udom always maintained he never sought to bring them or keep them. Contrary to mythology they did not thrive off his back from the Vietnam war but from the civilian contractors and other foreign businesses lured by the wartime economy.

He was among 14 Thais who last year were belatedly awarded their "wings" from the Fort Benning US military academy for wartime parachute jumps during training for projected drops into Thailand as resistance agents...

Behind the tawdry veneer, Patpong is little more than a couple of rows of modest concrete shophouses and a few office buildings. Yet as the city prospered Patpong found itself in the heart of the prosperous financial and commercial belt, and Udom was quick to keep rents in line with soaring real estate values.

The family decided to build a road linking one major thoroughfare with what at the time was a canal and is now one of the most congested, banked arteries. As Bangkok started its 1990s sprawl Udom developed Patpong as a business centre, luring many airlines, including the CIA's Air America.

Whether to soften the hard sex image or merely broaden its tourist appeal, Patpong added a night market in the late 1980s that is thought to pour millions of pounds in rents each month into the family coffers.

Letter
Gren Dix writes: I am surprised that your obituary of Seymour Cray (October 7) perpetuated the myth that "Sperry produced the first commercial computer". They may have re-packaged a scientific/military computer but the first truly commercial computer was Lyons Electronic Office (LEO).

Birthdays

Anthony Beaumont-Dark, former Conservative MP, 64; Maria Bueno, tennis player, 77; Sir Adam Butler, former Conservative minister, 65; Sir David Eccles, 89; David Rendall, operatic tenor, 48; 75; Jerome Robbins, choreographer, 78; Elizabeth Ward, president, British Kidney Patient Association, 70; Tony Worthington, Labour MP, 55.

Death Notices

ANDREW, October 5th peacefully at Westwood General Hospital, Mary Andrew aged 82 years of Ipswich, Essex, loved wife of the late Frank Andrew and dear mother of Harry and Sylvia Mary (deceased), on 8th October 1996 at Biddam House, Bowden, Cheshire aged 92 years, beloved wife of the late William James (deceased) on Thursday 17th October at 3 o'clock, Family flowers only, donations to St. Peter's Hospice, 100, St. Peter's Road, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP1 3JL, may be sent to Messrs. Ashdon Brothers Funeral Directors, Church Street, Alpheton, telephone 0118 928 7814.

In Memoriam

SEYMOUR, David, born 11th October 1905. With love always, Cathy and Caroline.

Births

DAVID COLLET, to Gerald and John, a daughter, Astoria, born 8th October 1996. Family and friends welcome. Congratulations and love from the family.

Birthdays

DANIEL, (11.10.71) Happy Birthday Boy - 1st quarter. Much love, M.S.

Ludmilla Chiriaeff

Leading life's drama a merry dance



Ludmilla Chiriaeff... created her own mythology

LUDMILLA Chiriaeff, the Canadian dancer, choreographer and ballet director, who has died aged 72, lived her life as a great, evolving drama. She transformed the facts of her Russian background and struggles to establish a ballet company in Montreal into a personal mythology - epic in scale, poetic in content and tinged with the suggestion of impending tragedy.

Chiriaeff was born in Riga, where her Russian parents had temporarily settled after escaping from the revolution in Petrograd. She was raised in Berlin but her heritage - aided by a thick Russian accent - became part of her aristocratic mystique. Chiriaeff's grand manner and theatrical elegance gave her an air of exoticism. In Montreal she worked for all it was worth. Her parents were well connected, and during Chiriaeff's childhood the great choreographer Michel Fokine was a regular house guest. As Chiriaeff never failed to relate, he became her first and most powerful influence in dance.

married and with two children, she looked to Canada to provide fresh adventures.

The power of the Catholic church, whose priests during Chiriaeff's early days in Montreal had inveigled from the pulpit against the inherent immorality of women in lights and short tutus, began to wane. Pride in the heritage of Quebec increased. Chiriaeff took advantage of both. In the tradition of Diaghilev, she sought out poets, artists and composers to work collaboratively. While Chiriaeff was creating or commissioning ballets based on Quebec themes for Les Grands Ballets, she was assuring her future by working tirelessly and with growing success to establish a firm base for pre-professional ballet training throughout Quebec. In retrospect perhaps her most important achievement was her role as an artistic advisor to give her company credibility with the Anglo establishment of the Canada Council. More importantly, she lured home two former Montreal choreographers, Brian Macdonald and Fernand Nault. Nault provided the company with some of its most popular if not always critically esteemed works. His 1970 setting of Stravinsky's Symphony of Psalms was performed in one of Montreal's largest churches, finally sealing Chiriaeff's rapprochement with the Catholic hierarchy.

Lord Greenall

Lord of racing

EDWARD Greenall, Lord Daresbury, who has died from heart failure aged 67, was a racing motorist, powerboat driver and the brewer who introduced Vladimir vodka via a cod-Russian advertising campaign.

from a local who had raced the car prewar on Southport Sands. Since the Bugatti's engine was irrevocably damaged, Greenall replaced it with a Ford V8 unit and went racing. "If anyone had ever been forgiven for bastardising a Bugatti, which I doubt," wrote the hill-climb expert C.A.N. May, "it should have been Edward Greenall." His Bugatti-Ford was one of the victorious Nottingham Sports Car Club team at the inter-club hill-climb meet at Prescott in 1952.

1959, when he scored a hat-trick at the June Oulton Park meeting with his Lotus XV and set a new 1500cc record at Aintree in September. In 1962 he resigned from the Greenall Whitley board, moved to Jersey, bought a brewery and developed Grunhalls lager. When Greenall Whitley's chairman died in 1969, Greenall assumed the post until 1972. In Jersey, he took up powerboat racing, and won the 1967 Needles Trophy and the 1968 Guards International Trophy.

Jackdaw



Bar balls-up

SYMPTOM: Beer unusually dry, pale and tasteless. FAULT: Glass empty. ACTION: Get someone to buy you another beer. SYMPTOM: Beer tasteless, front of your shirt is wet. FAULT: Mouth not open, or glass applied to wrong part of face. ACTION: Go to the men's room, practise drinking in front of the mirror. SYMPTOM: Feet cold and wet. FAULT: Glass being held at incorrect angle. ACTION: Rotate glass so that men and women meet.

Drinking cures from the Devils list server. B Spring. Shifty sheep STAFF AT Bede's World, a recreated Anglo-Saxon farm in Jarrow, Tyne and Wear, were astonished to find an autumn lamb had been born to one of the old ladies in their flock of primitive sheep. The nine ewes were thought to be too old for lambing - and their only companions were three castrated males. How 12-year-old Eunice, a North Devon, filmed at Ayrdon, Castle in Northumberland, she had a surreptitious liaison with another member of the cast, a Manx Loughan ram, which resulted in the unexpected arrival. More scandal in the world of films. Country Life. Licky blighter A South African name called

around her ankle to which was attached a heavy bell and chain, and ran off. It had to be removed by the fire brigade, using crash-rescue equipment and cutting gear. Word Games: When questioned by local journalists last October about France's resumption of South Pacific nuclear tests, the French Ambassador to New Zealand, Jacques Le Blanc, said a 110-kiloton bomb was technically not a bomb because it exploded underground and did not produce a mushroom cloud. Rather, Le Blanc said "it is a device which is exploding." News of the Weird from the Fortean Times. Baldy ballad TO THE tune of Baydon Races: Bishop Rodrick Wright of Argyll, and Other Highland Places. One day he up and disappeared, he left no sign nor traces. What's happened to the saintly garb, the mitre, crook and paces? They've gone away, hunk the day, he joined the human races. CHORUS: Oh me lads, you should've seen him gannin' Every night, from ten to 3, just as he were stannin' This position, that one too, up and down the bedstead The bishop's found he loves to s... like all the human races! A honeymoon in Keswick and a week in Gay Farsee Is more than most can stand me boys, e'en we were feellin' Fine

the night and still tell you and. He's sorry now, he's quite contrite - can't help it though you see. As long as there's no issue, as long as they're a pair They'll have it off though priests do scoff, and papists tear their hair. They're doing what comes naturally, without another care And if they can, they'll tape it all, for Sunday Sport's full fare. No, maybe there's another love, maybe there's a banker Maybe there's a teary eye, that needs a little hanker But I know you, and you know me, and we all know that know 'er. A woman's way is better Lord, than any monkish w... r. Discovered on the UK music-folk newsgroup by Pete Young, written by Larry Winger. Jackdaw wants jewels. E-mail jackdaw@guardian.co.uk; fax 0171-713 4566; Jackdaw, The Guardian, 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER.

Handwritten signature or scribble at the bottom of the page.

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# Finance Guardian

## Insurance switch in doubt

### Government's action plan in turmoil as ABI's Smees resigns

Pauline Springett and Lisa Buckingham

**T**HE Government's plans to hand over large parts of health, pensions and long-term care insurance to the private sector have been thrown into doubt following the resignation of the senior executive handling the issue for the insurance industry.

Paul Smees, the head of life business for the Association of British Insurers, has decided to leave at the end of the month, just two years after he joined the industry.

Mr Smees admitted yesterday that there had been problems drawing up a plan for the transfer of the industry's programme, but publicly denied any confrontation with the ABI's members, which include companies such as Prudential, Norwich Union and Royal Sun Alliance.

He said: "There has been no policy disagreement and no conspiracy. But there is a

problem with getting an agenda defined."

But insurance industry insiders say Mr Smees, who will join the Independent Television Commission, became increasingly frustrated at the industry's failure to agree on how pensions, health and long-term care insurance should be handled.

He is also understood to have grown impatient with the insurance companies' unwillingness to put the personal pensions mis-selling debacle behind them.

Mr Smees joined the ABI from the Stock Exchange, where he was head of public policy and international relations, and was regarded as an extremely able thinker joining an industry not noted for its intellectual calibre.

It is understood that insurance industry executives are warning the Government that extra regulation will be needed if they are to sell long-term care insurance policies. Senior figures are worried that rampant sales forces will target the old and infirm with



Paul Smees; Denies policy disagreement

### Increased tax on premiums will hit exports and wipe firms out, says NCM

Pauline Springett

**B**RITISH exports could be badly hit and hundreds of businesses fall if insurance premium tax is increased in next month's Budget, the credit insurance group NCM warned yesterday.

The warning followed the Guardian's revelation this week that the insurance industry was bracing itself for a doubling of the tax by the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, in a move which would raise an extra £540 million for the Treasury. The 2.5 per cent insurance premium tax (IPT) was introduced in 1994.

A spokesman for NCM, the world's largest private credit insurer, said that increasing IPT was likely to make British goods less competitive overseas. He said this was despite the fact

that IPT was charged only on domestic credit insurance and not on export credit premiums.

Credit insurance covers businesses for non-payment of debts by their customers. The spokesman explained that transactions of goods between UK companies were often covered by domestic credit insurance, and the IPT usually passed on to the buyer in the form of higher prices. If those goods are subsequently sold overseas — for instance a machine part might be incorporated into a machine which is exported — they will consequently cost more than if no IPT existed.

"The final destination of goods traded between UK firms is often overseas. The knock-on effect of IPT on domestic credit insurance for such goods can thus make UK exports less competitive. NCM fully backs the Association of British Insurers' campaign not only to prevent a damaging increase in the rate of IPT, but to get the tax actually withdrawn," the NCM spokesman added.

He also warned that, if the IPT were raised, it could deter UK companies from taking out credit insurance.

### Notebook

## NatWest rolls golden dice



Edited by Alex Brummer

**T**HE average customer of NatWest — struggling to obtain any sense from their local branch — the deal just signed between NatWest Markets and Hambro Magan will be fairly perplexing. Here is Britain's largest domestic bank, with a huge shareholder, customer and staff base, refusing to share with anyone the cost of its big move into top-bracket investment banking. Yet this adventure has an impact on all stakeholders in NatWest.

Shareholders, who have had to live with NatWest's past mistakes in, for instance, North American retail banking, have a right to know much more about a deal where disclosure has been minimal. Customers, who have had to live through higher service charges and diminished service as the bank refocuses its activities and rebuilds its finances after the setbacks of the early 1990s, need to be sure that the cash put into investment banking — at the top of the stock market on both sides of the Atlantic — is well spent and does not rebound on them in higher interest rates and charges. Other bank employees will no doubt be looking on in wonderment as an organisation seeking to cut its costs, promises to pay the 120 top corporate finance officials £2 million each over three years, an overhead hurtling towards a quarter of a billion pounds.

NatWest Markets has long cherished the ambition to move into the corporate finance world. In a globalised world of financial markets dominated by firms such as Goldman Sachs, Morgan Stanley, JP Morgan and BZW, it has looked curiously underpowered. It sought to address this issue when it bought into the entrepreneurial Wall Street firm Gleacher. With the absorption of the creative talent of Hambro Magan — which it is putting together with Gleacher — it may well feel it has engineered a better deal than if its earlier attempt to buy N.M. Rothschild had been successful.

Certainly, it is possible to put together an entrepreneurial house with a more traditional markets operation and create added value: that seems to have happened at SBC Warburg. Although some corporate finance clients have been lost, Warburg under SEC ownership has flourished, as has Barings under the wing of ING. Moreover, survival in the world of globalised investment banking means hanging on to the best and most loyal staff, hence the golden handoffs.

It was inevitable, once NatWest was shot of its North American banking operation, that it would be looking for somewhere to spend the

money. Lloyds Bank chose the personal sector and NatWest investment banking. The latter is fashionable and seems a reasonable direction in which to move. However, it should be noted that NatWest's past experience with entrepreneurial merchant banking — remember the Blue Arrow affair? — ended in disaster not just for County NatWest, but for the then senior management at NatWest, bringing the current team, headed by Lord Alexander, to office. No doubt many lessons have been learnt since then. But timing is apparently not one of them.

The strong bull market, on both sides of the Atlantic, is arguably near its peak. A change of government in London could change the whole chemistry of the mergers and acquisitions market, as well as the attitude of the competition authorities which police M&A. This is not the deal made in heaven of which NatWest Markets chief Martin Owen is so proud.

### Clarke's amnesia

**W**HATEVER his shortcomings, nobody could ever accuse Kenneth Clarke of lacking *chutzpah*. There he was, bold as brass, in Bournemouth yesterday lampooning Denis Healey for presiding over "Britain's worst post-war financial crisis" back in 1976.

The worst post-war crisis? Surely not. What about 16 September 1992, when sterling crashed out of the Exchange Rate Mechanism, despite all the Government's protestations that it would defend the rate of £2 marks come hell or high water? Was that not a financial crisis of some magnitude?

Apparently not. Black Wednesday seems to have been wiped from the Conservative Party's memory altogether. There was not the slightest recognition yesterday that the economic recovery gloried in by the conference had anything at all to do with the total abandonment of a policy responsible for needless unemployment, repression and hardship.

But Conservative amnesia over the ERM is but part of its neatly packaged story. Even the Government could not summon up the nerve to suggest that the recession didn't happen, but ministers have worked up a nice line in deflecting criticism. Britain, like other countries, was buffeted by an uncontrollable global downturn: now it is enjoying an upturn caused entirely by Tory policies. Simple really.

And if the recession was not the Government's fault, how could it be to blame for the tax increases that followed? On the contrary, Mr Clarke explained, the Conservative instinct was to cut taxes and reduce borrowing. Labour, on the other hand, was thirsting to spend before it had earned, to run up debts and put up taxes.

In Bournemouth, all this went down a storm. The faithful loved it. Come next spring, the public may be less understanding.

## British stores find new shores

**T**WO OF the biggest names on the British high street, Boots and Marks & Spencer, are expanding overseas, writes Tony May.

M & S opened a 20,000 sq ft store in Cologne yesterday — the first in Germany. The group now has 32 stores in continental Europe and will open another, in Bordeaux, France, next week.

Boots said it was spending £30 million to open eight stores in Thailand and the Netherlands in 1997, and it plans further stores in Japan.

Boots — which last tried its hand at overseas expansion in Canada in the 1980s but failed to make money — described the ventures as "a trial". It also has plans for a further 150 stores in the UK.

The company will make an announcement about the Japan operations shortly, but said its partner in Thailand would be the Minor Group.

Boots said the lack of regulation over medicine distribution in the Netherlands helped the decision to open there. Drug sales will be handled by EVA, a healthcare provider.



Vision of St Michael... shoppers in Cologne queue up for the opening of the first Marks & Spencer store in Germany

## Leeson boss claims £1/2m from Barings

Sarah Whitebloom

**B**ARELY healed wounds are set to be re-opened next week when a former Barings Brothers executive — a boss of the jailed rogue trader Nick Leeson — claims half a million pounds from the bank for "unpaid bonuses".

In a departure from usual Square Mile etiquette, the American banker Mary Walz is taking her case to the Stamford industrial tribunal in London's East End.

She claims that Barings, now owned by the Dutch ING group, owes her around £500,000 for work she did before the bank's collapse in February 1995.

Ms Walz and 30 other senior Barings staff left after the £300 million disintegration of the historic institution. None of them received bonuses, although many staff retained by Barings' new owners did receive productivity pay-outs. It is understood some £50 million was paid out by ING — largely to retain Barings' staff at a critical time.

Ms Walz, who was Barings' London-based global head of equity financial products, was in Leeson's direct chain of command. It is believed she had daily contact with the disgraced dealer, who was jailed for six and a half years in Singa-

## British Gas apologises for threats

Chris Barrie Business Correspondent

**B**RITISH Gas apologised yesterday for wrongly demanding payments from 400 customers in the South-west of England as it emerged that industry watchdog Clare Spottiswoode has demanded a detailed report from the company into the fiasco.

Admitting that further letters from its debt collection agency, the pre-court division of "Moorcroft Debt Recovery", could be mistakenly issued in the weeks ahead, BG promised to consider compensating the 150 customers

sent incorrect letters so far. It admitted another 250 customers had received reminder letters for bills they did not owe.

BG said it would take several weeks to resolve problems with its computerised billing system.

Although this particular hitch had been solved, there was no guarantee others would not arise.

A spokesman said: "We cannot guarantee anything, except that we are pouring all the resources that we can into resolving the network difficulties."

The problem, revealed in the Guardian yesterday, was raised at a meeting attended

by Ms Spottiswoode and Mike Alexander, managing director of British Gas Trading, Ms Spottiswoode and her officials at Ofgas are understood to be concerned at BG's ability to cope with growing problems in its £150 million billing system.

The company has already issued wrong reminders and disconnection notices to thousands of customers in London and the South-east, the east of England and East Anglia, and the North.

Although the south-western problem centres on customers who have switched from BG to new gas suppliers, the company insisted that the difficulties were unconnected with

## Lloyd's starts court battle with Names

Pauline Springett

**L**LOYD'S of London yesterday fired off the first writs to Names who are still refusing to pay their losses and who have failed to sign up to the insurance market's £2.2 billion rescue deal.

Lloyd's has constantly warned it would mercilessly pursue the remaining 1,850 recalcitrant Names to pay up. The Names officially had until the end of August to sign up to the settlement package, but Lloyd's has allowed latecomers to join in.

Yesterday's batch of 125 writs is expected to be the first of several which will be lodged with the High Court over the next few weeks. A second batch may be sent to the court today.

Lloyd's is seeking £500 million from the dissidents. Yesterday's writs sought between £50 million and £60 million in total.

Several well-known Names were on the list, including Tony Goods, the former chairman of Gooda & Partners, the Lloyd's agency which advised more than 260 Names. The Goods Names suffered some of the worst losses in Lloyd's.

Another high-profile Name on yesterday's writ list was Robin Kingsley, chairman of the Lime Street Agency, which placed Names on the loss-making Feltrim and Gooda Walker syndicates.

Many of the dissident Names have joined a new action group, the United Names Organisation, which has promised to provide a legal defence against Lloyd's.

## Bustly blondes lose BT connection

Nicholas Barnister Technology Editor

**S**UZIE, the busty blonde from Sweden, and MITZ, the strict mistress of Mayfair, will be sitting by the phone rather longer in future. British Telecom has decided that they have been getting too many calls from punters.

It has barred incoming calls to their phones and threatened to do the same to hundreds of other prostitutes who advertise their services on explicit cards in public phone boxes.

The telecom group revealed yesterday that it had started blocking in-

coming calls to certain numbers after warning letters sent to the subscribers were ignored.

BT announced in August that it would take action against such advertisers, particularly where the practice was most rampant — central London, Brighton and neighbouring Hove.

The first stage in its campaign was collecting the cards advertising the prostitutes' services, and then checking the numbers.

Any number found on the cards is fed into a computer and the customer is sent a letter asking them to stop advertising. If the number continues to be found, a

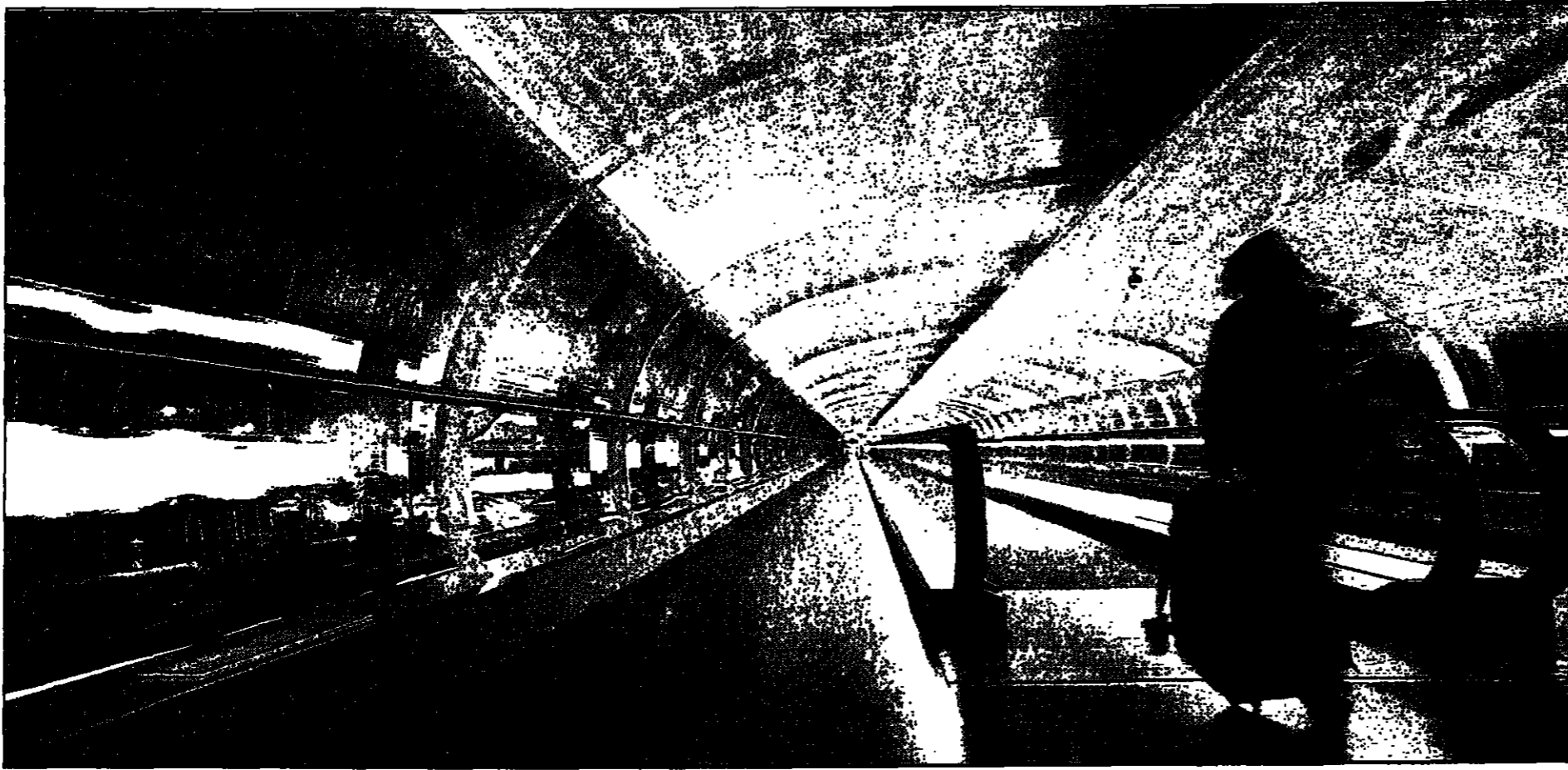
second letter is sent. Any further infringement leads to incoming calls to the number being blocked.

A BT spokesman said yesterday that every week its contractors were removing about 150,000 cards from central London kiosks and about 20,000 from ones in Brighton and Hove.

The contractors are accompanied by security guards to protect them from being intimidated by the people who earn £10 for every 100 of the cards that they plaster the kiosks with. While BT is taking a high moral tone in its campaign against the prostitutes and their cards, it is a mundane clause in its

Supplied by NatWest Bank (excluding Indian rupee and Israeli shekel).

TOURIST RATES — BANK BELLS			
Australia 1,920	France 7,82	Italy 2,340	Singapore 2,150
Austria 16,32	Germany 2,225	Spain 1,540	South Africa 2,52
Belgium 47,78	Greece 364,00	Netherlands 2,085	Sweden 195,30
Canada 2,060	Hong Kong 11,80	New Zealand 2,20	Switzerland 1,260
Cyprus 0,7065	India 55,77	Norway 9,9270	Trinidad 40,478
Denmark 6,5940	Ireland 0,9490	Portugal 226,75	USA 1,53
Finland 7,08	Israel 4,89	Saudi Arabia 5,84	



The £8.75 million Manchester airport Skylink walkway, with more steel than 14 Boeing 737s, which opened yesterday, linking with the rail station PHOTOGRAPH BY CHRISTOPHER THOMOND

# Stores create headache for Clarke as they cash in on rising demand to increase prices

## Upbeat shoppers fuel inflation

**Sarah Ryle and Richard Thomas**

**H**IGH street traders cashed in on rising consumer demand last month to increase prices, re-fuelling pressure on the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, to raise interest rates.

According to the latest snapshot of retail activity from the CBI, published today, sales volume grew strongly in September compared to a year ago, although expansion was not as fast as in August.

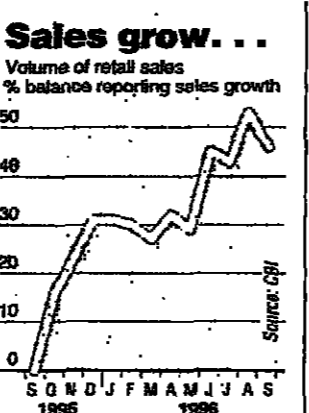
Separate figures published yesterday showed that demand enabled traders to push prices up, with underlying inflation creeping up from 2.8 per cent in August to 2.9 per cent last month. Clothing and footwear price rises, up 5.2 per cent, were the strongest

since the retail price index began in 1947.

Hopes that the high street recovery will feed through to other sectors of the economy were given a fresh boost by the CBI survey, which showed retailers increasing their orders to suppliers. And the British Chambers of Commerce quarterly report, due to be published next week, is expected to show that the service sector is at its strongest this decade, with even manufacturing picking up.

Despite BCC concerns about weakness in continental export markets, it is expected to report that the job shedding by big employers is over. That would further fuel consumer demand, supporting retailers' optimistic outlook for sales volumes next month — as reported in the CBI survey.

The chairman of the CBI's distributive trades survey,



Alastair Eperon, said: "The rate of growth in retail trade eased in September, disappointing companies' expectations of a further pick-up. However, the underlying growth in volumes, as measured by the three monthly

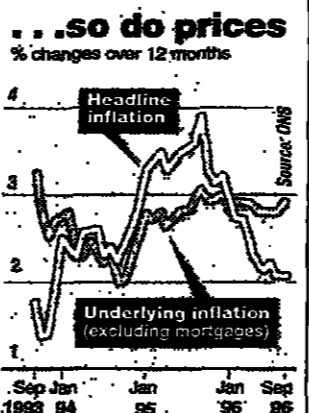
moving average, continues to hold up."

Stock levels which were very high and hindered expansion are now at an all-time low, the CBI reported.

Despite the latest evidence of buoyant consumer demand and the rise in the underlying rate of inflation — which strips out mortgage interest payments — Mr Clarke dampened down fears of overheating, insisting in Bournemouth yesterday that the economy remained on course to hit his 2.5 per cent underlying inflation target next year.

The Office for National Statistics said the headline rate of retail price increases remained static at 2.1 per cent, with higher house prices, higher private school fees and dearer fuel offset by cuts in mortgage payments by a string of building societies.

The flat headline inflation rate means that pensioners —



whose payments are updated in line with the September retail price index — will see a much lower cash increase in their weekly pensions than last year, when inflation hit 3.9 per cent.

City analysts said the data

backed Mr Clarke's no-change policy on interest rates, but pointed to signs that some retailers were taking advantage of cheaper wholesale goods to widen profit margins rather than passing on lower prices from the factory gate to shoppers.

The 5.2 per cent increase in clothes and footwear between August and September particularly fuelled market concerns about nascent inflationary pressure. The two pence per litre rise in fuel prices, as the war with supermarket forecourts eased, also increased concerns.

Jonathan Loynes, an economist at brokers HSBC Markets, said the figures were slightly disappointing, given the recent falls in producer price inflation: "Does this increase represent the beginnings of a full-scale attempt to rebuild margins? Too early to say."

# One water firm offends court every fortnight

**Nicholas Bamister Technology Editor**

**C**COURTS are finding Britain's water companies guilty of causing environmental damage every two or three weeks, the head of the Environmental Agency said yesterday.

Ed Gallagher told a London conference that the water industry had lost public support since privatisation in 1989, after a series of public relations disasters, including big boardroom pay rises.

As a result, people were less willing to help companies by conserving water. During the 1976 drought 80 per cent of people stopped watering their gardens and 70 per cent flushed their toilets less. "There are few who would believe the public would act in the same way today," he said.

"An industry whose companies continually end up in court for pollution offences, that under-invests in research and development, and does not meet society's expectations for standards of service will not only alienate customers but also shareholders of the 21st century."

He criticised the loss of water through leakages and the lack of investment that allowed it to happen but poured scorn on those who

blamed water shortages on leakages. He pointed out that water consumption in Britain was only a third of that in France and an eighth of that in the United States.

He called for an investment programme to win back public confidence and urged companies to increase research and development spending, which was far too low at 1 per cent of industry turnover.

He suggested that job cuts, instead of increasing productivity, may have reduced standards to an unacceptable level. "There have been almost 250 successful prosecutions of water companies for environmental damage since privatisation," he said. "On average, a water company has been found guilty once every two or three weeks."

"The company, with the worst record has just received a fine and costs of over £200,000 for its 43rd offence, but most fines imposed by the courts are a fraction of this."

Speaking at the same conference, water industry regulator Ian Byatt said that his role was primarily concerned with economic performance. "Regulators are given economic objectives and are judged against whether their decisions foster them — sectoral and social considerations, on the other hand, rightly involve politicians."

## News in brief

### Imro review largely clears fund managers

**C**ITY watchdog Imro is to ask a handful of fund managers to tighten up their controls over investments in unquoted stock, it said yesterday after completion of a unit trust review triggered by last month's £200 million debacle at Morgan Grenfell.

Giving the vast majority of fund managers a clean bill of health, Imro stressed that none of the small number of control lapses identified by the review were serious and said it did not anticipate taking "any further investigatory action".

The review, which focused on unquoted stocks held by unit trusts, concluded that improvements could be made to "various control processes" and noted that some managers placed "too great a reliance on a single independent pricing source".

Yesterday, Imro said it was writing to fund managers, "pointing out the necessity of verifying independent pricing sources to check on the accuracy of valuations relating to unquoted securities". Just 13 per cent of 1,669 authorised unit trusts — accounting for some £100 billion of investors' money — hold unquoted stock, with the average value estimated at £79 per cent of the portfolio. City rules generally bar an investment greater than 10 per cent. — *Richard Miles*

### Choices plan under inquiry

**A**N "investment plan" offering subscribers returns of up to 275 per cent is in the hands of the Official Receiver after action by the Department of Trade and Industry. Principle Choice — incorporated in the Seychelles and promoted in Britain through Bournemouth-based Prime Marketing Associates — faces a High Court hearing on November 6 to shut it down "in the public interest".

The organisation operated under a UK-based club for members, benefits included the right to invest in a money plan offering returns of £75 to £82.50 for each £30 put in. Anyone believing they have funds at risk with Principle Choice should contact the insolvency service at 21 Bloomsbury Street, London, WC1. — *Don Atkinson*

### 65,000 escape equity trap

**R**ISING house prices have pulled 65,000 homeowners out of negative equity in the last three months, according to the Woolwich Building Society.

A 0.6 per cent rise in national house prices during the third quarter helped to reduce the estimated number of households in negative equity to 475,000 — the first time the number has fallen below half a million since the middle of 1990. — *Ian Whyte*

### Mannesmann sells TI stake

**T**I, the engineering group, said yesterday that Mannesmann, its German shareholder, had sold its 8.9 per cent stake in the company. Mannesmann, a shareholder in TI for more than seven years, sold at \$32 a share.

Joachim Funk, Mannesmann's chief executive, said its investment in TI had been satisfactory, but his company would focus on investments in telecommunications, engineering and automotive activities. TI shares closed down 10p at 564 1/2p. — *Ian King*

### LIG pulls out of Carolina

**L**ONDON International Group, which makes Durex condoms, announced plans yesterday to close its condom factory in South Carolina, with the loss of 200 permanent and 150 temporary jobs. LIG shares closed down 1p at 158p. — *Ian King*

Don't forget: Sprouts, marge, bacon, imported French beer, a portable pension — and buy in a few kilowatts for the winter

# Power play to sweep up sales at supermarket

**Chris Barrie and Simon Beavis**

**N**ATIONAL Power and PowerGen want to link up with supermarkets to shatter the stranglehold of the regional electricity companies over domestic customers.

The generators have held talks with leading chains such as Tesco, Sainsbury and Asda about offering energy packages — including gas supplies — to their customers. The moves would represent the boldest diversification by supermarkets since they plundered a quarter of the petrol market.

Similarly, the Automobile Association said yesterday it had held talks with a number of parties about selling energy to its members. Talks were at a "very early stage".

The move may be welcomed by Professor Stephen Little-

child, the electricity industry regulator, as a way of breaking attempts by the regional companies (Recs) to obstruct the introduction of competition in 1998. From April 1 that year 65 million domestic electricity consumers will be free to shop around for the cheapest power.

One large supermarket said it was "very interested" in the energy market but concerned about its lack of experience. A senior executive said one solution was to enter the market allied with an established player. Customers could pay for their energy and groceries together at the check-out.

The generators are thought to be contemplating a range of partnerships, including joint ventures of up to two Recs with a supermarket chain or a looser collaboration.

PowerGen is believed to have signed heads of agreement with two Recs, and is

seeking similar deals with up to three others. The company may also develop sales directly, exploiting the brand name it has promoted through sponsorship of TV weather forecasts.

The generators stand to gain by securing outlets for their power. By selling at wholesale prices to retailers, they could offset falling pool prices.

If a Rec was also a partner, the generator could be sure that a predictable quantity of power would be needed: Recs are likely to hold on to most domestic customers until competition has been operating for some time.

The plans follow the Government's decision last April to block bids by the generators for Recs. National Power and PowerGen had sought to buy Southern Electric and Midlands Electricity for £2.5 billion and £1.55 billion, respectively. Trade and Industry Secretary Ian Lang vetoed the takeovers under pressure from Tory right-wingers concerned that competition could be stifled.

The supermarkets may run four of consumer organisations keen to prevent "cherry-picking". Regional electricity and gas suppliers are forced to supply low income customers, but it is unclear how this might apply to supermarkets.

# Mall owner to put pensions in your trolley

**Richard Miles**

**B**UYING a pension may soon become as easy as picking up your groceries at Liberty International, a property and financial services company, yesterday unveiled plans to sell pensions through some of the UK's biggest shopping malls.

Liberty said it intends to start offering pensions early next year to the millions of shoppers who pass each day through its malls, including Lakeside Thurrock and the MetroCentre in Gateshead, pending approval from the Department of Trade and Industry.

The £50 million venture is being backed by the BT pension scheme, the UK's largest pension fund with over £20 billion of savers' money under its control. It

has taken a 10 per cent stake in the new company, Liberty International Pensions.

Donald Gordon, chairman of Liberty, said the company's goal was to become the "moral" supplier of pensions to both individuals and companies, at a time when the pensions industry "is in a state of fundamental transition".

Mr Gordon said the focus of its individual pension business would be through the malls, adding that there are "150 million visits" to its shopping malls each year.

Blake Dempster, managing director of the new

company, said he intended to undercut the traditional pension providers by using modern technology and paying no commission to middlemen. "We need to see a paradigm shift in the UK with pensions becoming available for everybody," he said.

Competition in the pensions market is likely to intensify later this year when Virgin Direct, the financial services company founded by Richard Branson, enters the arena, offering savers a range of cut-price pensions over the telephone.

Liberty yesterday also announced a joint venture with Hermes, manager of the BT and Post Office pension funds, to provide fund

**7:30am HEATHROW** Iberia: First to Madrid



# We've got more time for you



**7:55pm MADRID** Iberia: Last back to Heathrow



**Rugby League**

**Larder slams 'dumb football' by Lions**

**Card with g...**

**LACELINE**

**Easy D**

Rugby League
Lion Red Cup XIII 22
Great Britain 22
Larder slams 'dumb football' by Lions

Andy Wilson in Auckland

GRREAT BRITAIN were brought back to earth with a bang at Carlaw Park yesterday after their Test-record 72-4 victory in Fiji, finishing up only the width of a post away from defeat by what is effectively the Kiwis' 3rd XIII and left in no doubt about what to expect in their three-match series against New Zealand.

"It should not have been a tough game but we made it tough by playing dumb football," said the British coach Phil Larder. "We were too ambitious. We have flair and skill but we have to harness that by learning that there is a time to play adventurous football and a time to lay the foundation."

The Lion Red Cup XIII, drawn entirely from a domestic competition which is predominantly amateur and plundered by the Auckland Warriors and foreign clubs, would have ended a tourists' unbeaten record if the former Wakefield stand-off David Bailey had not hit the post with a drop-gate attempt in the closing minutes of a compelling match.

"After Fiji this will be a good game for the British of the challenge they have on with the Kiwis," said Graeme Norton, a former Auckland player who guested for Kent Invicta and is now earning a name as a coach after guiding New Zealand through the international Super League Nines in February. The Lions face the Kiwis' Second XIII in the shape of a President's Select, at Wellington on Tuesday.

Larder was sharply critical of his team - the same starting 13 which set the record in Fiji - and a cavalier attitude to possession that saw them make nearly 20 handling errors. "We played very badly," he said. "That was not the way we had trained."

Be that as it may, his men played some spectacular attacking football. Stuart Spruce secured his super all-round performance, capped by a 90-yard individual try from dummy-half when the Lions were trailing 14-4 on half-time.



Full on, Keiron... the hard-running Great Britain hooker Cunningham attempts to barge his way through in Auckland

VICTORIA MATTHEWS

Lions were trailing 14-4 on half-time Cunningham and Darryl Powell added two more excellent scores to turn a 20-10 deficit into a 22-20 lead in a commanding 15 minutes midway through the second half. But the best came in the frantic closing stages, as the captain Andrew Farrell and the teenage Leeds forward Adrian Morley launched the Lions on raid after raid into the heart of the Reds' defence.

However, the only score in that period came from the reliable boot of the home half-back Ben Lythe, who equalised with an off-side penalty, his fifth goal from five attempts.

Both sides had their chances to steal a win in the final minutes. Twice the Lions worked promising positions and twice they were let down by handling errors from the stoppage half-back pairing of Tulen Tollett and Iestyn Harris, thrown together when Bobbie Goulding limped off 10 minutes from time with a worrying recurrence of his foot injury.

After the second blunder the Reds forged into the British defence to set up Bailey's final drop-goal attempt - then, after the substitute prop Steve Molloy had calmly gathered the rebound and set up one last British attack, Anthony Sullivan went over in the left corner only for the local referee Grant Wallace to rule the final pass from Powell forward.

Sullivan had scored the Lions' first try after Denis Betts reacted first to a mis-directed Goulding bomb, but Betts and Brian McDermott were hauled off 10 minutes later after the home full-back Fama Hoinia had stepped through the British defence to put the former Warrington

hooker Kudu Barlow over for the Reds' first try. Live Red Cow: Kudu Barlow, Fakaevamona, Malisara-Brown, H. Stewart, Bailey, Lyne, D. Stewart, Latoro, Aloa, Edwards, Adams, Hughes, Stewart, Jameson, Tait, Nelson, Kaitiaki. Great Britain: Spruce, Muntz, Radisavljevic, Powell, Sullivan, Harris, Goulding, Broadhead, Cunningham, McDermott, Betts, Scarpa, Farrell, Subbotin, Tollett, Morley, Molloy. Referee: G. Wallace (New Zealand).

The Academy side launched their three-Juneur-Test New Zealand tour with a 48-16 win over Auckland Under-19s. Half-back Craig Dean scored two tries in a fine display at scores-half but the Leeds forward Nick Fozzard was sin-binned for brawling.

Racing
Kinane role crucial in Oscar bid

Chris Hawkins

OSCAR Schindler, third in last Sunday's Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe, has been confirmed a definite runner in the Melbourne Cup on November 6.

Oliver Lehane, the colt's owner, has been persuaded to run by Mick Kinane, successful in the race on Vintage Crop in 1993, who will take the ride.

Mick believes he is 7lb well in the Melbourne Cup, whereas he would need to improve 7lb to have any chance in the Breeders' Cup in Toronto," said Lehane.

There is no denying Oscar Schindler looks well handicapped with a 13lb on his run in the Arc, particularly as he would have finished a good second if given even a half-decent ride. Once again Cash Assmusen overdid the waiting tactics in a big race.

The doubt about Oscar Schindler, who is by Royal Academy, must be his ability to stay two miles although he won the Irish St Leger over a mile and three-quarters with complete authority.

It is in his favour that this fine, big colt travels well on the bit in his races and takes little out of himself. If he gets the trip his finishing speed

could well prove decisive. He certainly has more class than Vintage Crop who won with 8st 10lb.

Oscar Schindler, trained by Kevin Prendergast, thus joins Ian Balding's Grey Shob, whose costly passage to Australia (estimated at over £30,000) has already been booked.

There is abundant prize-money in the big handicap, however, with £684,200 to the winner and place money down to fifth.

Those finishing sixth, seventh, eighth, ninth and tenth get what is called a "starter's rebate" which amounts to £14,364 each. Cost of entry is £5,220.

No decision has yet been made about whether Classic Cliche in the Arc, will run in the Arc, particularly as he would have finished a good second if given even a half-decent ride.

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Grant to take up training

CHRIS Grant, the former leading jumps jockey, has received a National Hunt training licence and will kick off with his first runners in a fortnight.

Grant, 39, who retired from the saddle two years ago after a distinguished 20-year career, will start with a dozen horses at his farm at Wolvis, near Sedgfield.

For the last 18 months Grant and his wife Susan have trained a small team of point-to-pointers.

"Although I said when I gave up riding that I would never train, I have enjoyed training the point-to-pointers so much that we have now decided to take it a go," explained Grant.

At Ascot this afternoon Newport Knight (2.00) looks one of the best bets in the Bolinger Handicap for amateur riders.

This consistent five-year-old has some useful form and last time out failed by a short-head to deny the prolific Pistol at Bath.

Ascot card with guide to the latest form

Table listing race details for Ascot, including race number, name, distance, and top horses with their jockeys.

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Results

Large table containing race results for various tracks, including race number, name, distance, and winning horses with their jockeys.

RACELINE logo and contact information for Ascot and Carlisle.

Easy for Hero advertisement featuring a decorated hero and contact information for Ascot.

Soccer

David Lacey says England won on Wednesday despite forgetting how to defend from the front and Gascoigne running out of steam

Hodde - more revision required

GLENN HODDE has adopted a reasoned, rational approach to the task of taking England to the 1998 World Cup...

heading Group Two and avoiding a play-off to qualify must be strong, especially if Italy, nervous 1-0 winners against Georgia...

SHEARER'S SCORE LINES

Table with columns: League, FA Cup, League Cup, Other, Total. Rows include Southampton, Blackburn, Newcastle, England U-21, England senior, and Total.



risk Ferdinand's qualities in the air were apparent early on and his was the instinctive lay-off that set up Shearer's second goal...

Rugby League

Cougars seek protection from debts of £1m

KEIGHLEY Cougars became the second major club in a week to own up to financial problems, declaring debts of £1 million...

Both Smith and O'Hara said that, with the removal of the danger of the club being closed by a winding-up order...

Boring, boring Tottenham

Martin Thorpe finds White Hart Lane fans fed up with Sugar and itching for spice

NOT so long ago Tottenham were on the brink of bankruptcy. Yesterday they announced an £11.9 million profit...

both suit each other down to the ground. One puts efficiency of the field as his priority, and the other puts organisation on the field as his...



Back to basics... Rudi Gullit, still to appear for Chelsea this season, gets into the swing of things in a friendly against a young Nottingham Forest side at Stamford Bridge yesterday.

Fifa put McAllister on three-day standby

GARY McALLISTER'S eligibility for Scotland's next World Cup qualifying match will remain in doubt until three days before Sweden are due to play at Tirox on November 10...

Coventry's midfielder will be deemed to have served his ban. Jim Farry, the SFA chief executive, emphasised yesterday that his association will abide by the world governing body's decision...

Sweden's defeat by Austria in Stockholm on Wednesday has elevated the Scots, who drew their opening match in Vienna last month...

Smith drops McGrath in at the deep end

PAUL McGRATH is plunged straight into the Derby County side at home to Newcastle tomorrow after being given a chance by the manager Jim Smith to revive his career at the Baseball Ground...

Cycling

Boardman defies fearful descent

CHRIS BOARDMAN survived all that the lowering sky could throw at him on a course which he predicted correctly would be a 'nightmare' if it rained to take silver behind Switzerland's Alex Zülle in yesterday's world time-trial championship...

Descent or no descent, Boardman could not match the pace set by Zülle, who is on a roll after his victory 10 days ago in the Tour of Spain. He was the fastest of the 40 starters at every timing point...

Sport in brief

Tennis: Greg Rusedski produced the fastest serve ever recorded yesterday when he reached the quarter-finals of the Beijing Open...

Sailing

Mike Golding's Group 4 held the overall lead in 20- to 25-knot north-easterly winds as the BT Global Challenge fleet headed towards the Cape Verde Islands...

Rugby Union

The Scots finally entered the professional era with the announcement that 36 players have signed contracts with the SRU. Several top players, including Scott Hastings, Ken Logan and Duncan Hodge...

Fixtures

17.45 unless stated. Soccer: Norwich vs Ipswich; Second Division: Bristol City vs York...

Results

Soccer: World Cup Qualifiers: Paraguay 2, Chile 1; Argentina 5, Venezuela 2. Rugby League: TOUR MATCHES: Lion Red Cup XIII 22, Great Britain 22, Auckland U-19 16, Great Britain Academy 49. Golf: ALFRED DUHRELL CUP (St Andrews): Group one: United States 3, Italy 1...

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Advertisement for Williams' and other products, including a large image of a person's face and the text 'Williams' and 'biolo forces'.

WILLIAMS DRIVER CLOSES MIND TO GHOSTS FROM PAST



Hunt... devil-may-care
Alan Henry finds the British driver in resolute mood in Japan, where one of the great grand prix upsets occurred 20 years ago



On the waterfront... the outsider James Hunt sets the pace in the final race of 1976 on the track at Mount Fuji where he won the world title by one point

Hill ready to go for broke at Suzuka

DAMON HILL approached the most important weekend of his professional life by edging his Williams-Renault out on to the circuit yesterday in practice for the Japanese Grand Prix. He may have been calm on the surface but inwardly he admitted to wrestling with a dilemma over his strategy, namely how to balance a tactical approach to Sunday's race with his natural desire to win the event outright.

championship and the Canadian's own chances of adding the Formula One series to last year's IndyCar triumph are hanging by a thread. If anyone but Villeneuve wins the race, Hill will step out of the shadow of his father Graham and be crowned champion. "I certainly have to take into account the fact that winning the championship is paramount," he said yesterday. "So there is a little bit of weighing up to be done in my mind as to whether I want to take more risk with a view to winning the race, or to ensure that I finish in the points in order to win the championship. "But I'm always nervous about taking a cautious approach because sometimes that can throw up unexpected difficulties."

and Jackie Stewart respectively, hit trouble. Yesterday Villeneuve admitted his own hopes were "slim" but added: "I really have nothing to lose. I'll go out and give it my best shot to try and win the race and then we will see what happens." Suzuka has hosted both the best and worst races of Hill's career. Two years ago on a near-flooded track his Williams beat Michael Schumacher's Benetton in a straight fight, ensuring that the 1994 championship went to the wire in Adelaide. Last year he ended an erratic race by embedding his Williams in a gravel trap as the German surged to victory. For the moment Hill is geared up only for Sunday. "I haven't had any sleepless nights thinking about what's at stake," he said. "I expect there will be a lot said after Sunday but I hope that most of it will just say that Damon Hill is world champion."

The day Hunt rained on the favourite's parade by pipping Lauda at the post

JACQUES Villeneuve will be keeping a weather eye on the track on Sunday as he prepares to do battle with Damon Hill, bearing in mind that 20 years ago Japan handed a rain check to another famous outsider who duly took the title on the final day of the season. James Hunt had only a slim chance of the championship when he entered the final round at Mount Fuji. He was three points behind Ferrari's Niki Lauda and the event was plunged into chaos when the drivers protested that the rain-lashed track was too dangerous, leading to a delay of 90 minutes before the start.

Hunt was in a comparable position to the one Villeneuve finds himself in this weekend. The Englishman had to make up a 47-point deficit during the second half of 1976 and had never led the points table. Hunt went to Japan with a devil-may-care insouciance, having decided that only a miracle could win him the title. That miracle came in the form of Lauda's startling candour. The Austrian driver had battled back after receiving the last rites only three months before when his Ferrari crashed in flames on the opening lap of the German Grand Prix. At Mount Fuji, reeling under Hunt's relentless pressure in the second half of the season, his nerve cracked on the flooded surface. At the end of the opening lap he pulled quietly into the pits. Ferrari's chief engineer

suggested telling the press that it was engine trouble. "No way," said Lauda. "It's just total bloody stupidity out there. I've chosen to stop and I'll stand by that decision." Hunt led commandingly. Then, with five laps left, his McLaren came scuffing into the pits with the left front tyre deflated. Less than half a minute later Hunt rejoined in fifth place, uncertain where he was in the race order. Mario Andretti's Lotus won, ahead of Patrick Depailler's Tyrrell with Hunt not knowing where he had finished. Then he saw Teddy Mayer, the McLaren team manager, holding up three fingers. "You've done it James," he shouted. "You're third. You're world champion." Those four points were enough to gain Hunt the Formula One crown by a single point ahead of his friend Lauda.

Rugby Union Green light for tactical substitutions

Robert Armstrong

RUGBY union is to follow the example of soccer and rugby league by allowing tactical substitutions. At present only injured players can be replaced during a game but from November 4 no such reason will be necessary.

The International Board agreed to this at its meeting in Rome this week, and the changes will apply to international and senior club matches in both hemispheres.

The IB has also ruled that the number of replacements due to injury can increase from four to six. A total of five players can take the field as substitutes but only two of them may be front-row forwards. In a standard squad of 21 there must be two players on the bench who can play in the front row.

By allowing tactical substitutions an opportunity is provided to enhance team performance," said the IB chairman Vernon Pugh. "We also believe this decision makes the game more honest in that it addresses concerns about players feigning injury."

He added: "We will still have no more than six players on the bench for international matches, of whom two still must be front-row forwards. "An individual who has been substituted will not be able to resume as a replacement in the event of injury except in the case of a bleeding wound."

Two complaints have been made to the international Board about British clubs refusing to release star players from the Irish and Canadian rugby unions have both accused British clubs of breaking IB rules by not making some of their international players available for their countries.

The IB has asked the English and Welsh unions to respond within 21 days.

"Once the unions have replied we will set a date for a hearing - assuming that a hearing is necessary - and ask what evidence and witnesses the unions wish to present," said Pugh. The IB refuses to name the clubs but it is thought that the Irish complaints refer to several English clubs and the Canadian protests to a Welsh side.

Harlequins have two Irish internationals, Jim Staples and Keith Wood, and Saracens have the Wallace brothers Richard and Paul. The Welsh club is thought to be Bridgend, who have three Canadian internationals on their books, Gareth Hester, Chris Michaluk and John Graf.

London Irish recently refused to release four of their international players to Irish provinces for the Heineken Cup, though the four look set to defy the club and represent their respective provinces after all. Victor Costello is named in the Leinster team against Llanelli on Saturday. Jeremy Davidson and David Humphreys are on the Ulster team and Gabriel Fulcher is picked for Munster.

The relevant regulation states: "A union has first and last call upon the availability of a player for selection and appearance for a national representative team or national squad."

"No union association, rugby body or club, whether by contract or otherwise, may inhibit, prevent or render unavailable any player from selection, attendance and appearance in a national representative team or national squad - including training sessions - and any player must be released upon request by his union."

Sale to play at Old Trafford

SALE have made a provisional 10-year agreement with Lancashire County Cricket Club that will allow the Cheshire side to stage rugby union matches at Old Trafford, writes Robert Armstrong. This season three Courage League matches - against Bath, Saracens and Northampton - will be played there and, provided no serious problems arise, the long-

term deal will take effect from next September.

Sale members have not yet been consulted about the ground-sharing proposal but it is understood that training sessions will be held and club games will continue to be played at Heywood Road as usual.

Sale own the freehold of their ground as well as a training pitch which is worth around £3 million.

Golf

Injured Allenby to claim bonus in one-putt farce

ROBERT ALLENBY resigned to ending his fairy-tale European season on a note of absurdity by walking on to the 1st tee at the Volvo Masters, tapping the ball with his putter and walking off with up to £75,000.

Such a pantomime seems likely because the Australian, who recently fractured his breastbone in a car crash, must show at the elite Valderrama event at the end of the month to qualify for his bonus for finishing high in the European Order of Merit.

Never mind that he will be keeping out some more able-bodied if lower-ranked player from the season-ending money-spinner, rules are rules.

"I don't think it's good for golf if someone prevents someone else from playing, then pulls out after one shot," said his manager Andrew Ramsey. "But it's worth a lot of money. I

spoke to Ken Schofield [the European Tour's executive director] about it and was hoping that, in the extraordinary circumstances, Robert would be allowed to miss the event and still be eligible for the bonus pool. "But the rules are in black and white, and Ken said his hands were tied. It's a really difficult situation, but Robert wants to finish third in the Order of Merit."



Allenby... pain but gain

and, if it means hitting just one shot - it may be with his putter as he's not fit to swing a club - that's what he'll do."

John Paramor, the Tour's director of operations, said: "We had the same thing in 1981 with Ian Woosnam. He had a chronic back problem, didn't play at Valderrama and didn't collect his bonus money."

"It's difficult to break precedents. If Robert hits one shot, then withdraws, it would be rather sad but it's just one of those things. It's happened before."

Allenby has won three times in Europe this year, earning £458,500. Costantino Rocca, Lee Westwood and Andrew Coltart can all overtake him at Valderrama but, with bonus money for the top 15, Allenby would still collect £53,000 extra if he drops to fourth or £39,000 for fifth - provided he taps one ball in Spain.

Torrance fails to make tee in his sleep

Michael Britten in Madrid

SAM TORRANCE contributed another chapter to his catalogue of golf "accidents" when he was disqualified without hitting a shot in the Ryder Cup here at La Moraleja yesterday.

The Scot was ruled out when he failed to appear for his scheduled first round partner Manuel Ballesteros, elder brother of the Ryder Cup captain. Instead of being on the 1st tee of the No. 1 course at 9:20am Torrance was still in bed.

Two hours earlier Torrance had answered a wake-up call from the driver of his hotel courtesy car. But, having travelled to Spain from an invitation event in Korea last week, he promptly nodded off again and slept soundly until phoned by tournament officials to tell him he had been disqualified.

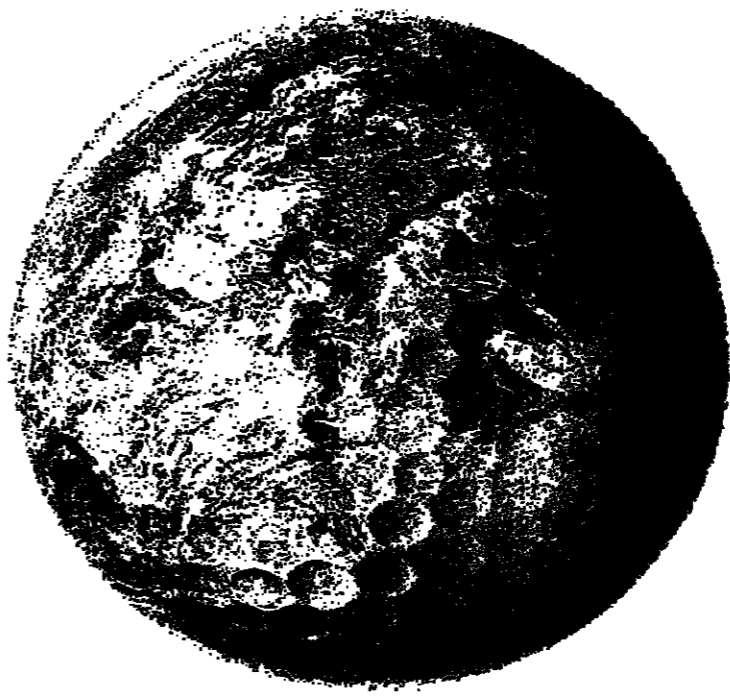
"I had arrived within five minutes of my allotted start he would merely have suffered a two-stroke penalty but, when he did not appear at all, we had no option but to rule him out completely," said the tournament director Michael Stewart.

The accident-prone Torrance, who has suffered a variety of foot injuries and sleep-walking collisions in recent years, confessed: "This time I have no excuse whatsoever. I wasn't jet-lagged, I just overslept. It has happened to me before because I am a very heavy sleeper."

The 43-year-old Scot, in every Ryder Cup since 1981, might well have struggled to match the flying start of the Spaniard Pedro Linhart (65) and the Madrid specialists Andrew Sherborne and Miguel Martin, who both had 67.

Linhart had six birdies and sank a nine-iron for an eagle two to the 5th. Sherborne, from Bristol, won the 1991 Madrid Open and the capital's 1992 Spanish Open but is not counting any Ryder Cup chickens yet. After the rival captains Tom Kite and Ballesteros had shot 71 and 72 respectively he said: "I am also thinking about the Ryder Cup next year. I think I will go down to Valderrama and watch it."

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IF IT'S IN THE GAME, IT'S IN THE GAME.

Athletics

Nebiolo forces Games delay

Duncan Mackay

THE organisers of the 1998 Commonwealth Games have been forced to reschedule the track-and-field programme because of the hard line taken by the International Amateur Athletic Federation over the dates of the World Cup.

Primo Nebiolo, the president of the IAAF, told the World Calendar Conference in Dublin yesterday that the Commonwealth Games Federation had decided to delay the start of the Games in Kuala Lumpur by two days. In fact the IAAF had forced the CGF's hand.

Nebiolo is determined that in future no other event will be allowed to take place within three days of any meeting organised by the

IAAF. The World Cup in Johannesburg will end on September 13, the day before the track-and-field programme was due to start at the Commonwealth Games. Any athlete who missed South Africa to compete in the Games faced suspension.

Now the Commonwealth Games will begin on September 16. "I am extremely happy," said Nebiolo. "Our athletes will travel on Monday, arrive in Kuala Lumpur on Tuesday and on Wednesday they will compete."

Nebiolo has taken other measures to protect the integrity of IAAF meetings. An even more far-reaching one is offering prize-money at all world championships and world cups, starting with the indoor championships in Paris next March. He is also preparing dra-

stically to restructure the grand prix circuit in 1998. There will be 28 events next year beginning in Melbourne on February 20 and ending at Fukuoka on September 13, when almost \$4 million (\$2.6 million) in total prize-money will be awarded.

However, in 1998 there is likely to be a new Super League of 10 meetings with each event paying out up to \$1 million. "We must find new ways of packaging and presenting the circuit so as to stimulate the public, the athletes, the media and the sponsors," said Nebiolo.

Ted Turner, the founder of CNN, is planning a new Goodwill Games for winter sports. The International Olympic Committee was yesterday told that the media magnate wants to stage the event in the winter of 1999-2000.

# SportsGuardian

## Sugar denies gaining at Spurs' expense

Ian King

THE Tottenham chairman Alan Sugar yesterday angrily denied milking the club after announcing a controversial £7.9 million one-off write-down of player values in the accounts.

Sugar, who has seen the value of his 40 per cent stake in Spurs jump from £13 million to more than £35 million in the past year, said his main challenge was to make Tottenham "a great club again" and that he did not need to make any money from it.

As Tottenham announced full-year pre-tax profits of £11.9 million, against £5.4 million in the same period last year, Sugar defended the club's failure to sign any top-class players recently.

Sugar attacked spiralling transfer fees and said Tottenham had to act responsibly to shareholders and supporters, even if it meant ruling out buying players the club could not afford. He was "bewildered" by Alan Shearer's record transfer to Newcastle and said Tottenham would never spend such amounts on players, since it made no financial sense, however much silverware was won.

"The fact of the matter is that, if Newcastle write down £15 million over five years, then if we believe what the papers say Shearer's wages are, it could be costing them £5.5 million a season. If you win the Champions League I'm told you'll get no more than £6 or £7 million. So, even if you win everything in sight, there's still no way you can make it pay."

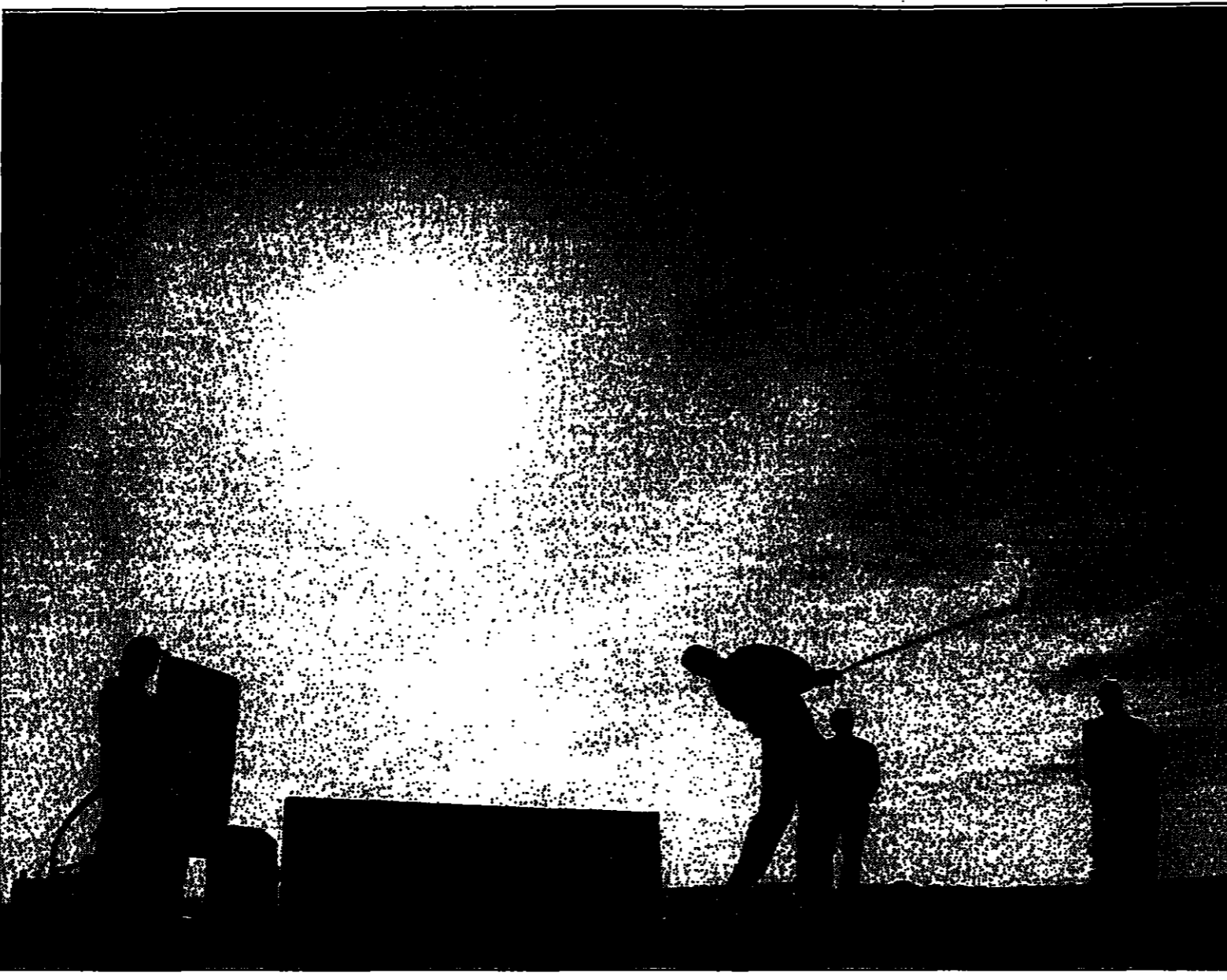
Insisting Spurs would not compete in the transfer market on the same terms as clubs such as Newcastle, Manchester United or Liverpool, Sugar accepted some fans would be unhappy about the policy but urged them to be patient. "In 1992 this club was down the Swansea to Midland Bank to the tune of £11 million. I know most fans don't give a monkey's about Tottenham's finances but they would do if they saw a big red Tesco sign on their great football ground."

He indicated that Spurs' manager Gerry Francis had money to spend on players and said there were "four or five balls in the air". But, recalling Tottenham's experience with Jürgen Klinsmann and Gica Popescu, he ruled out buying into the "new wave of out-of-contract superstars who come, conquer and go". He added: "What my manager wants to buy, he can have. The outlook is quite good and we will be bitterly disappointed if we don't get into Europe next year."

Spurs shares closed 3 1/2 p lower at 436p.

Sourced by Sugar, page 14

## SCOTS OUT OF LUCK ON OPENING DAY OF DUNHILL CUP



Driving ahead... but Jarmo Sandelin of Sweden, using a 54-inch driver, enjoyed a generous rub of the green in the closing stages of his deciding match against Scotland's Colin Montgomerie (below)

## O'Meara has St Andrews reeling — until the 17th

David Davies at St Andrews

IN THE first round of Dunhill Cup matches Mark O'Meara had eight consecutive birdies here yesterday, a run later extended to 10 in 12 holes. The 39-year-old American was threatening almost all the scoring records in the book before the infamous Road Hole intervened.

Unfortunately for him but fortunately for golfing sanity, that 17th hole cost him a double-bogey six and he was left with a mere 63 on his card, nine under par. The course record of 62 — set by Curtis Strange at this event in 1987 — thus survived, as did any thought of a 59, which would surely count as a desecration of the blessed links.

O'Meara duly led his American team to victory over Italy, beating Costantino Rocca, who has also experienced triumph and disaster on this course. O'Meara had only 10 putts on the front nine, but his six at the 17th was a classic. His second shot

just trickled on to the road, his third failed to find the green, his fourth was five feet short and, now demoralised, he missed that as well.

In general terms the favourites all won although Scotland, the defending champions, lost. Stuck with opponents who actually turned up, they were beaten by Sweden on the last green in the last match of the day.

Such is medal-matchplay that no sooner had the last Scottish putt been left short than righteous indignation began to be heard. "We were 11 under par for the three matches," said one Scottish voice. "They were 10 under, and we lost."

Another Scot pointed out that if the five-under Andrew Coltart had been playing the four-under Patrik Sjöland, and the three-under Colin Montgomerie had been playing the two-under Peter Hedblom, the Scots would have prevailed. "Eleven under," mused Montgomerie, "would have beaten most teams."

The Swedes won this event in 1991, but it has to be said that if one side enjoyed the run of the ball yesterday it was they, and particularly Jarmo Sandelin in his deciding match against Montgomerie.

"Oh my God, it's going to be one of those days," thought Sandelin as he watched as the Scot birdied the first three holes. It was indeed, but not the way the Swede envisaged. He was still two behind at the turn, but birdied the 11th and 12th holes and went ahead, for the first and last time, with an outrageous birdie at the 16th.

"I tried to draw my second shot, but I hit a straight fade," explained Sandelin, who was shouting "Fore!" as soon as he hit it. "I thought it was going out of bounds." Montgomerie confessed: "I was thinking what I'm sure he was thinking: that's a six." But the wind kept the ball just in bounds, and in a place from where the Swede could putt it.

He did, of course, from what Sandelin thought was 90 metres and Montgomerie estimated to be 110 feet. The putt had 10 feet of break in it and the Swede could stand there



PHOTOGRAPHS: DAVID CANNON (Sandelin) AND STEPHEN MUNDAY

## Tories want Coe time to run and run



Vincent Hanna

BOURNEMOUTH is full of charming women of mature age and young men in blue suits. They did not want to talk about sport. "John Major knows all about sport," said Daphne, who was next to me in the queue at the security hut. "We are all behind him on sport. The BBC presents we are split but we're not."

She seized my arm: "Do you think it's hopeless?" "Politics," I said, "is a game of two halves." George from the East Midlands became animated: "Yes, there's a penalty about-out, John Major will take the kicks. He'll pop the ball over the bar, don't you worry." "Good point," I said. "No, three points, old boy," beamed George, and how we laughed.

I asked them if they knew the Sports Minister and they said yes they did: it was Sebastian Coe. I went to find him. Coe is not the Sports Minister; that is Iain Sproule, and I promise not to make up any more jokes about him. He has a difficult job. He has no budget and works for Virginia Bottomley. If he has a good idea, his boss pinches it. Sproule is lucky in that the Prime Minister now and then lets him pose for photographs with him.

Coe is now a whip and is supposed to come out only after dark and say nothing in public. So, out of respect for him, may I make it clear that when he spoke to me at the Highcliff Hotel was somewhere else.

You know that story about the ravens in the Tower of London: if they ever fly away the sun will set on Margaret Thatcher. Something like that. Well, Coe is a sort of raven. He set a world record for 800 metres in Oslo in July 1979, two months after the Tories took power. He lowered it to 1min 41.73sec in 1981 and, in spite of the efforts of Messrs Cruz and Kipketer, holds it to this day. Coe became an MP in 1992 and, curiously, his original world record marks the life span of this Government. My plan was to write about sport and the Conservative Party but all they talk about is sport in the Conservative Party. You hear the odd politi-

cal reference to final furdongs and the breakers but this year somehow their hearts were not in it.

Nor were there any fringe meetings about sport, unless you count the *Why do a million ordinary people enjoy the sport of shooting?* debate at the Troutville Hotel on Tuesday. It was a question that hung unanswered in the Dorset air until yesterday lunchtime when Norman Lamont told us how he would win the next general election.

"The tradition in our party," Coe said (sorry, did not say), "was to focus more on the arts than on sport. Permanent secretaries tended to hang around Covent Garden. Now because of John Major they know where Chelsea play."

"And because of David Mellor," I said, "they know what colour their strip is." I am not sure if Virginia Bottomley knows but she could tell them where to get it washed. In her speech yesterday the saintly Heritage Secretary said she would provide subsidised trips for OAPs to heritage sites.

Then, "I want to talk about sport," she said. "All those muddy shirts and socks whirling in tens of thousands of washing machines on Saturday evenings." She blamed the "half-baked, egalitarian bigots" of Labour who had tried to drive out competitive sports. She promised to use Lottery money to fund athletes in training and pay for coaches. Then she sang a little song and banned a porn satellite channel.

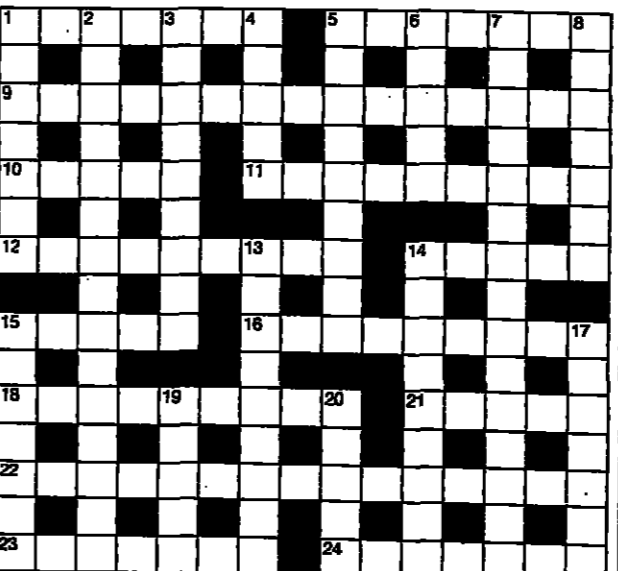
I HAD a mental picture of Virginia stuffing a half-baked, muddy Tory, in a blue shirt, into a spin-dryer when the air turned chill around me and Lord Tebbit materialised at my side. I asked him about sport and he told me a funny story about a Bosnian footballer in Manchester, but the office has heard it, so you cannot.

Then he said: "Try to see this Government as playing the second innings of a one-day international against Labour. Blair is 28 points ahead in the polls and there's seven months to go. The required run rate is four points a month. And we haven't scored a run in months. And what do they do? The Government stands around waiting for Labour to bowl no-balls and wides."

Norman Tebbit smiled in my direction. An assiduous pot-bellied man who had and fell over. A charming lady came up with a leaflet for a fringe meeting in the Solent Restaurant. *Obesity: A Plague for the 21st Century*. I ran for the train — as best I could.

## Guardian Crossword No 20,781

Set by Custos



- Across**
- Makes comfortable in col. say, and eats heartily (5,2)
  - Fugitive, 'arcadian, running free round about (7)
  - Exposes illegal practices, like a sporting arbitrator? (5,3,7)
  - One protected by a gun, back in a marshy pine forest (5)
  - Drug injector found in ocean vessel (9)
  - It's a fag having to call round scouring grate (9)
  - Love to walk round the verandah (5)
  - Works doggedly making record in ship (5)
  - Fool one couple, American, being diligent (9)
  - Denseness revealed by a stupid grin, once about one (9)
  - Muslim prince to seize in endless awe? The opposite (5)
- Down**
- Emaciated cat rolls over, about to bite nastily (7)
  - Last chance for bargains? Head of company, forfeiting profits, swallows beer (7-4,4)
  - Sauce, a Brother's stimulant derived from a tree (9)
  - Biblical character, one brought up to be busily active (5)
  - Eats among the ranks, showing boisterous nature (5)
  - Noisy stream causing ruffie (5)
  - Have a steaming bath and land in trouble (3,4,3,5)
  - The first person heard to fall, bringing a tear to Shakespeare (3-4)

**13** School youngster carrying nothing in a crowd of passengers? (9)

**14** Stray aimlessly round garden, sitting a lot (9)

**15** Kitchen utensil requiring craft with a French lady connection (7)

**17** Cry before start of drinking, having become temperate (7)

**19** Girl who sounds hopeful ... (5)

**20** ... She's to some extent above the law (5)

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## Ruddles County Riddles.

### No. 12. Change for the Better

Peter, James and John had arranged to meet up with several other key members of their local village cricket team to watch highlights from an enthusiastic amateur video of their latest, greatest mid-season match.

Like any thoughtful hosts catering for grown-up tastes they decided to get in a basic stock of flavoured Ruddles County in convenient cans. They also agreed as friends do, to share the expense and each clipped in a tenner to the kitty. John volunteered to pop

round to the Off Licence on their behalf.

After he'd left James, with a/c the Manager of the Off Licence realised he'd overcharged him by £5. To rectify the situation immediately, he gave his new assistant 5 pound coins and instructed him to run after John and return the correct change.

The assistant who was on probation (in more senses than one) caught up with John, explained the situation but being a little economical

with the truth kept 2 pound coins for himself and returned 3 pound coins to John.

Unsuspecting John thanked him and returned £1 each to Peter and James, keeping £1 for himself. In effect this meant that the 3 friends had expended £9 each and the shifty assistant had nicked £2.

The strange thing is this £9 multiplied by 3 = £27.00 plus £2 that was misappropriated = £29.00.

What happened to the other £1?



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Saturday October 11 1996

Vomiting Government - Sir James G...

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PM delight

Major

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